

TOMORROW

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Spectrum lives out a day in the life of a council estate...
thoughts
Philip Howard imagines a conversation between Dr Johnson (below) and George Orwell



Police hall
David Miller reports on an arresting football match in St Paul's, Bristol
Past imperfect
Alan Franks lays the ghost of Christmas past

Bradman record is beaten

Sunil Gavaskar, the Indian cricketer, overtook Donald Bradman's record of 29 Test centuries as he made 149 not out against West Indies in Madras yesterday during his 99th appearance for his country.
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Pan-Am threat to Concorde

Pan American World Airways has asked the US regulatory agency to suspend Concorde fares on the ground of unfair competition by British Airways and the British Government.
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German thaw

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New pleasures

New attractions such as highly mechanized pleasure parks kept up the number of sightseers in England in 1982, despite the fall in popularity of longer-established attractions, according to the English Tourist Board.
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Bignone charge

Former President Bignone of Argentina faces a second charge of involvement in disappearances during the "dirty war" conducted by the military regimes of the 1970s.
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Burton deal

Burton has bought the Harry Fenton chain of 93 menswear shops for £3.5m in a deal which took only three days to complete.
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Steel decisions

Two factors, both requiring renewed government commitment to the steel industry, will influence the British Steel Corporation's plans.
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Blast kills six

Six people were killed in a propane gas explosion and fire in Buffalo, New York. Sixty others were injured.
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US role in Lebanon put in doubt by bomb inquiry

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Pentagon report on the suicide bombing which killed 241 American troops in Beirut calls for an urgent review of the entire US military mission in Lebanon.

The lengthy report, published yesterday, will provide powerful ammunition for Congressional critics of America's presence in Lebanon. It goes far beyond merely apportioning blame for the disaster, and repeatedly raises broad questions about the military pursuit of US objectives in Beirut.

It says that America's decisions about Lebanon have to a great extent been "characterized by an emphasis on military options and the expansion of the US military role," even though the security of American troops has become more precarious "as progress towards a diplomatic solution slowed".

The report advocates "re-examination of alternative means of achieving US objectives in Lebanon, to include a comprehensive assessment of the military security options being developed by the chain of command, and a more vigorous and demanding approach to pursuing diplomatic alternatives".

It does not recommend specific alternatives. It does, however, propose the consideration of disciplinary action against US officers for permitting terrorists to crash a lorry laden with explosives into a building filled with sleeping Marines on October 23.

But President Reagan said on Tuesday that, as Commander-in-Chief of the United States armed forces, he accepted full blame for the lack of security, and ruled out disciplinary action against commanders.

This move appears to have been designed to ensure that he retains the political high ground in the debate over security measures in Lebanon. "We wanted to get the President out in front on this one," a White House official said.

The president's decision to preempt the possibility of formal punishment of military commanders is probably unprecedented. By making his statement before publication of the report he has ensured that no individual is likely to be court-martialed.

Although the decision is popular in military circles it is seen by some analysts as political interference with the military legal system. It is argued by some observers that it conflicts with the traditional principle that officers are responsible for the safety and well-being of their troops.

Legally, Mr Reagan's remarks do not preclude the instigation of court martial proceedings against individuals but such an exercise would be largely pointless since he has effectively said that he would issue a pardon.

Lesser punishments, such as reprimands or demotions, would technically still be possible but White House officials made clear yesterday that the President felt that no actions of any kind should be taken.

The Pentagon report, which runs to 160 pages, was prepared by a five-member panel headed by retired Admiral Robert Long. It followed the findings of a congressional inquiry last week which blamed the entire chain of military command for lax security.

The Long Report also blames the whole operational military chain of command, from the local battalion commander to the head of US forces in Europe, General Bernard Rogers.

Missing Andropov still wields power in Kremlin

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov again missed an important political occasion yesterday when he failed to attend the opening day of the Supreme Soviet in the Kremlin. Reports circulating at the session said Mr Andropov was ill in hospital, although other reports say he is convalescing at a special Politburo sanatorium after a kidney operation.

On Monday and Tuesday Mr Andropov was absent from the Central Committee plenum which precedes the Supreme Soviet and decides policy in advance. The 1500-member Supreme Soviet has its real power and rubber stamps party decisions.

But as head of state and party leader Mr Andropov would be expected to preside over the proceedings, which are televised. His absence yesterday, for which no explanation was given, had a greater impact on ordinary Russians than his failure to attend the closed Central Committee meeting, attributed to "temporary" reasons.

The four men promoted by Mr Andropov on Monday despite his absence - seen as proof of his continuing power and influence - all sat on the platform in the Great Hall of the Kremlin yesterday, with Mr Vasily Vorotnikov taking his place as a full Politburo member alongside Mr Grigori Romanov, the former Leningrad party leader. Both are now considered possible successors to Mr Andropov.

In another move designed to show that Mr Andropov is in control and not about to step down, Tass announced that the Soviet leader had been nominated to stand as a deputy to the Supreme Soviet in the elections next March.

There is nonetheless widespread concern over the fact that although Mr Andropov is still laying down economic guidelines and appointing new officials, he has not been seen since the middle of August.

In his speech on Monday, which was read for him, Mr Andropov made no reference to foreign policy, even though Moscow faces an East-West crisis over arms control and is due to take a stand at the Stockholm disarmament conference next month. Against expectations there were no foreign policy speeches at yesterday's Kremlin meeting, although foreign policy was debated later in closed session.

In the only public reference to Foreign Affairs, Mr Vasily Garbuzov, the Finance Minister, said Soviet defences would be strengthened because of NATO's "extreme reckless" missile deployments in Europe.

Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister, sat in Mr Andropov's place on the platform, with Mr Konstantin Chernenko next to him. Mr Chernenko is the Kremlin number two by seniority, and opposed Mr Andropov for the leadership last year. Later Mr Chernenko left and Mr Tikhonov moved along, leaving Mr Andropov's seat symbolically vacant.

Mr Andropov has issued monthly statements on arms control during his absence, and speakers yesterday repeatedly invoked his name and achievements.

Setting the scene, page 4
Leading article, page 11

Eddie Waring 'stable but very ill' in hospital

Mr Eddie Waring, aged 73, the former BBC television rugby league commentator, was said to be "very ill but stable" in hospital yesterday after being admitted shortly before Christmas.

Mrs Mary Waring, his wife, said the family had been overwhelmed by goodwill messages to their home in Old Lane, Bramhope, near Leeds.

Mr Waring, whose Yorkshire accent and distinctive style is familiar to millions of television viewers, is being treated in an acute admissions ward at High Royds Hospital, Menston.

Maze escapers linked to Tidey's kidnap

Irish police have established that the IRA gang behind the kidnapping of Mr Don Tidey, a Dublin businessman, included men who escaped in a break-out from the Maze prison in Belfast last September.

Three of the kidnap group are known to have been among the 38 prisoners who got out of the Maze, killing a warden on the way.

But detectives indicated last night that they knew the identities of at least four of the gang that abducted Mr Tidey on November 24 in an attempt to extract a £5m ransom from his employers. All four are understood to be from Northern Ireland.

But detectives believe some members of the group of up to eight men were based in the south. Two men, one from Co Kerry and the other from Co Leitrim, have been charged with falsely imprisoning Mr Tidey.

Mr Tidey, aged 49, a widower and father of three, was rescued unharmed in Co Leitrim near the border with Northern Ireland after three weeks in captivity. But in gun battles during his release, two members of the Irish security forces were shot dead.

Lean times ahead for food-loving MPs

Let me have men about me that are fat; Sleek-headed men and such as sleep o' nights. Yond Cassius has a lean look; He thinks too much: such men are dangerous.

By Philip Webster

Clearly Julius Caesar's concerns about the menace of thin men is not shared by the people responsible for feeding Britain's MPs.

The House of Commons catering committee aims to slim down on public representatives and make them healthier and fitter. Menus in the dining rooms and cafeterias for MPs, visitors and staff at Westminster are likely to be revised to give more emphasis to vegetarian foods, salads and fruit and less to stodgy puddings.

The committee chairman, Mr Charles Irving, Conservative MP for Cheltenham, is already achieving a quiet catering revolution, turning a big loss in 1979 into profits during the past three years. A £200,000 surplus for the current year is expected to be announced soon.

Mr Irving made the Commons' somewhat shop highly profitable and improved the dining surroundings by having flowers put on the tables and hopes a pianist will be recruited for the Harcourt Room, one of the main dining rooms.

He said yesterday that MPs should be given the chance to eat more carefully. "We are virtually prisoners here when the Commons is sitting," he said. "We will try to give more emphasis to healthier eating. Instead of sweet puddings with syrup poured all over them we would like to make the meals lighter."

Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, who weighs 19 stone, said: "It's a very good idea. A lot of us are getting quite portly. Mr Irving tells me I am one of his best customers."



Bomb widow: Mrs Maureen Dodd at Chelsea police station yesterday. (Photograph: John Voos)

Blast victim's widow speaks of dangers facing police

The widow of Inspector Stephen Dodd, the Harrods bomb victim, spoke yesterday of the television newswatch that brought her face-to-face with the dangers facing her husband.

Mrs Maureen Dodd, aged 37, a former policewoman said she could never forgive the IRA bombers who shattered her Christmas and hopes for the future. But she could "appreciate" the Irish problem because she is going to be busy, just not dreaming what has really happened.

"The children heard about the bombing on the television. I turned round to my little one and said to her: 'You can forget Daddy for this afternoon, because he is going to be busy, just not dreaming what has really happened.'"

While Anthony, aged 11, Melanie, aged 9, and Susan, aged 7, continued to play, Mrs Dodd did not become unduly worried until later news flashes said that several had been killed and others injured.

When Mrs Dodd heard the later news she telephoned Chelsea police where her husband was based, and then went straight to the station.

Mrs Dodd, who left the police when she married in 1979, said yesterday at Chelsea police station: "Truly, I can't understand anybody who can do that. Not just to injure policemen, because that bomb could have injured hundreds more people than it did."

There is no word to describe the person who did this. But having said that, I do appreciate there is an Irish problem, and until that problem is settled these things are going to happen - maybe not in England, but they are happening in Ireland every day.

My family is Irish, living in Belfast. When I was 18 I was in Ireland visiting them. I saw the Rev Ian Paisley raising the rable against the Catholics. I have never seen anything so frightening in my life. We were

Continued on back page, col 1

Doctor in Down's case dies

By Michael Horne

Dr Leonard Arthur, the paediatrician acquitted of the attempted murder of a baby with Down's Syndrome in 1981, died on Christmas Day after a long illness, it was disclosed yesterday.

Dr Arthur, aged 57, who left a widow and six children, was cleared at Leicester crown court after allegations made against him by the anti-abortion group, LIFE.

Mr John Harding, deputy chief administrator for the Derbyshire area health authority, which employed him said: "Dr Arthur's death will be a tremendous loss to the health service in this region."

He was originally charged with the murder of three-day-old John Pearson at Derby City Hospital but, after two days of legal submissions in the absence of a jury, the charge was changed to one of attempted murder. It was alleged that he prescribed a drug which suppressed appetite and impaired breathing.

Anti-terror police hold man

By Stewart Tisdler
Crime Reporter

Detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad were questioning a London man last night about possible connections with French terrorists, after the discovery of explosives in his home.

The man, understood to be held at Paddington Green police station, was arrested at 1.15am yesterday in a police raid in the Finsbury Park area of north London. After the raid a Scotland Yard spokesman said that explosives, grenades, ammunition and a firearm had been found.

The man is not being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, nor is the arrest connected in any way with the Harrods bombing. The police are investigating possible links with a French terrorist group, although the man being held is British.

In the past year there have been a number of bombings in Paris attributed to Action Directe, an extreme left-wing group, and organizations such as the Revolutionary Caribbean Alliance. A bombing in Marseilles in October was thought to have been the work of a right-wing body with the title of the Charles Martel group.

The French authorities have also been struggling with Corsican organizations demanding independence and Basque groups operating from French territory. In recent months attacks on French troops in Beirut have led to tighter security for M. Francois Mitterand, the French President.

There has been considerable activity by anti-terrorist squad officers and Special Branch detectives in London since the Harrods bombing, and yesterday's raid may have been a by-product of these investigations.

Women invade air base control

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

Greenham Common peace women protesting against cruise missiles achieved one of their most startling invasions of the US air base in Berkshire when they spent three hours in the air traffic control tower on Tuesday evening.

According to the account of the three women who were arrested in the control tower they were detected only when they flashed lights on and off to draw attention to their presence. They have been charged with criminal damage and were released on bail to appear before Newbury magistrates on January 26.

The first 16 of the missiles and their nuclear warheads arrived at Greenham last month, and "initial operating capability" is formally due to be achieved by Saturday night. It is likely that the missiles are already capable of operation, though the Ministry of Defence would not confirm this last night.

The control tower, although symbolically important as a nerve centre for controlling the movement of aircraft, is some distance from the cruise bunkers. The Ministry which said it was "obviously concerned" at the breach of security, put the distance from the bunkers at about three-quarters of a mile, while one of the women who entered the tower, Rebecca Johnson, estimated the distance as "up to half a mile".

She said that in the tower they did not identify anything they could clearly see was directly related to the missiles, but there was a great deal of communications and computer equipment which related to the running of the base and air traffic going in and out.

She said the three women had discussed walking across the base to the missile bunkers, but had decided not to. They had hidden bolt cutters on the base which they could have used to cut the wire round the bunkers.

Thames Valley police gave the names of the two women arrested with Miss Johnson as Sue Hornsagold and Elizabeth Amy Galst, an American. All three gave their address as the Greenham women's peace camp.

Miss Johnson, aged 29, told *The Times* that they had entered the control tower at about 5pm on Tuesday and had been arrested at 7.55.

They had crossed two fences and some rolls of barbed or razor wire. They had climbed some scaffolding and a fire escape on the tower, and had made a small hole in a window to release a catch and enter the tower. At the time the control tower was unoccupied.

If they wished they could have done considerable damage.

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PURE INDIA TEA

Unions pay £30,000 to boost Kinnock image on his political travels

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The unions are to pay £30,000 to finance the political travels of Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, and research work for Shadow Cabinet members.

The cash is being made available through Trade Union for Labour Victory, the umbrella body set up by the labour movement to channel funds to the party.

Most of the money will go towards funding research staff working for Opposition front bench spokesmen, but several thousand pounds are reserved for national and international trips by Mr Kinnock to build up his image as the alternative Prime Minister. He is to visit the United States and the Soviet Union next spring.

Union leaders agreed to donate the cash from TULV funds after an approach from the party leader, whose state financial support has been reduced in the wake of Labour's disastrous performance at the polls last June.

State "Short money" for the Opposition, so called after the former Labour deputy leader Mr Edward Short (now Lord Glenamara), who devised the formula, is calculated on popular vote cast at the general election. Labour's reduced share is reflected in a shortfall on last year's grant.

Faced with a reduction of £4,000, to £317,000, in the "Short money" grant at a time when Labour is expanding its parliamentary support team, Mr Kinnock approached TULV for funds to "top up" the government subvention.

The unions, whose cash-gathering operation is threatened by left and right-wing breakaways, agreed to make up the bulk of the shortfall as part of a continuing support programme for the Labour Party.

TULV and party officials were reluctant yesterday to comment publicly on the increasing scale of support for the

parliamentary arm of the party at a time when Labour's headquarters in Walworth Road, south London, is in a financial crisis.

Mr James Mortimer, general secretary of the Labour Party, has told the staff that between 20 and 60 job losses are required to put the party on to an even keel.

Labour's operational activities are just "in the black", but the party's long-standing overdraft exceeds £400,000 and is still climbing. Trade union donors insist that money left in the general election campaign fund must not be transferred to pay off the party's long-term debts.

Party insiders are privately predicting that TULV wracked by the defection of the right-wing engineering workers and now under attack by a breakaway move from the National Union of Mineworkers disclosed in yesterday's *Times* will be wound up over the next year.

New leader brings more votes

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Firm evidence of the recovery of the Labour Party under the leadership of Mr Neil Kinnock has been disclosed in a survey by the *New Statesman* of the results of local council by-elections held since he took over from Mr Michael Foot on October 2.

The sharp rise in the party's electoral popularity which occurred immediately after his election at Brighton has been sustained, with Labour winning more votes than the Conservatives over the past three months.

In 79 local contests involving the three main parties, Labour candidates have attracted 55,997 votes, or 33.7 per cent, and Conservative candidates

44,907 or 33.1 per cent. The figures indicate that Labour has swiftly recovered from a drop in support early in December during the mass picketing at Warrington. Cheshire. In the National Graphical Association dispute with Mr Eddie Shah's Messenger group of newspapers.

The survey comes as an important boost to Mr Kinnock

Council	Seats defended	Seats lost	Seats gained
C	37	8	7
L	33	7	8
S	11	2	10
SDP	2	2	0
Others	9	7	1

Findings, page 8

Fate of Ravenscraig hinges on government and EEC pledges

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Two key factors will influence the new plan for steel being drawn up by the British Steel Corporation after the collapse of talks with United States Steel - and both will require a renewed government commitment.

Production at the threatened Ravenscraig works, near Glasgow, and throughout British Steel, is protected by a statement made in December, last year, by Mr Patrick Jenkin, then Secretary of State for Industry. The Government instructed British Steel to keep open the five integrated works for three years: Port Talbot, Llanwern, Scunthorpe, Ravenscraig, and Teesside.

There is little indication that the Government will change its mind.

Significantly, the corporation's three wide-strip mills are located at Port Talbot, Llanwern, and Ravenscraig, the last being the most vulnerable because of its greater distance from the main markets.

The second factor is that

under the European Commission's crisis plan to restructure the steel industry, member governments are committed to phasing out all state aid by the end of 1985.

That is regarded as optimistic by some European steel leaders, but the British Government regards abolition of aid as vital to the privatization of British Steel, which it still expects to break even by March 1985.

The Scottish lobby, in which Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, has played a big role, has argued for the retention of Ravenscraig as an integrated works on the ground of job implications, but also because further deterioration of Scotland's manufacturing base would threaten the country's cohesion.

The big question now relates not so much to the strip mills, one of which British Steel wanted to close even if the deal with US Steel was concluded, but to overall manned steel-making capacity, which stands at 14.4 million tonnes.

Lack of agreement with the Americans has returned British Steel to the position of a year ago when Mr Jenkin made his statement and made more urgent the need to reach long-term decisions on the basic steel industry's size.

Warnings over Ravenscraig's future were dismissed by local politicians and union leaders yesterday.

Relief at the collapse of the deal has, however, been tempered by resentment among the 4,000 workers at British Steel's sprawling plant to recognize the plant's value. The Labour MP for Motherwell South, which includes Ravenscraig, Dr Jeremy Bray, accused senior management of being in the grip of chronic defeatism.

He said that British Steel's insistence that Britain could sustain only two of its three integrated steel works had no basis in reality. Ravenscraig's convener, Mr Tommy Brennan, said yesterday: "We do not have any fears for the future now".

Appeal for witness of bomb hoax

An appeal was made in Manchester Magistrates' Court yesterday for a witness who allegedly saw a hoax bomb being left at Abbeyfields old people's home, earlier this month shortly before it was opened by the Princess of Wales, in Withington, Manchester.

Mr Stuart Taylor, of Chatham Court, and Mrs Susan Wood, of Heycroft Road, both of Withington, were remanded on bail until January 18, having denied the offence.

Jeremy Seymour-Eyles, of Hartington Road, Twickenham, was sent to a detention centre for three months by Hove Magistrates' Court yesterday, after he admitted making a hoax call.

Brittan fails to keep his promise on prisoners

By David Cross

The number of remand prisoners in police cells has fallen to its lowest level for some months, but Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, has been unable to honour his pledge to end the practice by the end of the year.

Mr Brittan made his promise at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool in October after complaints from groups including the Law Society, at the unusually large number of prisoners held in unsuitable police cells because of overcrowding at remand prisons in London. The total reached more than 600 at the end of November after running at more than 400 a day for most of the year.

But the Prison Department said yesterday that the total had fallen to 134 as more prison places for remand prisoners had become available.

One important factor is that Wormwood Scrubs admitted prisoners on holding charges, for the first time this month. More remand places have also become available at Pentonville, which no longer takes people held on immigration charges. These now go to Ashford prison, Kent.



Mr Brittan: Bowed to pressure

Waldorf officer on duty

By Our Crime Reporter

One of the detectives involved in the Steven Waldorf shooting has returned to his normal duties as a surveillance specialist after the Police Complaints Board's decision last week not to take disciplinary action.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that Det Constable John Jardine, aged 38, rejoined his C11 section just before Christmas. He was suspended shortly after Mr Waldorf, a freelance film editor, was shot in mistake for

the wanted gunman, David Martin, during a police operation last January.

Earlier in the week, the Yard announced that Police Constable Peter Finch, also suspended after the shooting, had returned to police duties but had been moved from detective to uniformed work.

In October PC Finch and Constable Jardine were acquitted by a jury of attempting to murder Mr Waldorf. Letters, page 11

Security clampdown on Russian liner

By Rupert Morris

Russian seamen yesterday responded with a brief "No visitors" to anyone seeking information from the 120 passengers or crew of the Mikhail Kalinin, 4,871 tons, recently docked at Tilbury, in Essex.

A security blanket had been dropped over the Mikhail Kalinin after allegations that the Russian cruise company, CTC, had given British holidaymakers the sort of Christmas that they would wish to forget.

More than seventy Britons who had embarked for a Christmas tour of the Mediterranean, stopping at Zebrugga, Lisbon, Gibraltar, Malaga, Tangier and Corunna,

were said to have ended up swaying to and fro across the Channel, stopping only briefly at Zebrugga and St Malo, denied access to a telephone and kept in constant ignorance of their whereabouts.

Yesterday, the ship's master refused to speak to journalists, and passengers were protected by a policeman at the Tilbury docks. But several British voices told reporters not to believe yesterday's report in the *Daily Mail*, which was based on the views of one disgruntled passenger.

Among those who managed to slip through the security net was Mrs Millicent Newman, from Barnes, south-west London, who was treated on board

for cuts and bruises after the porthole of her cabin blew in; she had been moved from another cabin when it flooded.

"I am very dissatisfied with the whole thing", Mrs Newman said. "They should have warned us about the weather when we booked. They have offered us 50 per cent off another cruise, but I cannot afford it."

Mrs Gwendolyn Martins, from Bourne, said: "The weather got bad and we were stranded off Torbay. We all thought we were off the coast of France. Then they said we were going to Cherbourg or Le Havre. It ended up that we went to St Malo, where we spent Christmas Day.

Mr Geoffrey Benson, deputy general manager of CTC, said that the Kalinin had been forced to shelter off Torbay and St Malo because of storms in the Channel. A plan to divert the ship to the Canary Islands was abandoned because of hurricanes.

He said that passengers had been allowed to use the ship's radio telephone, except in port. Mr Eric Phipps, a director of the company, said that it was the first time in eight years that the Christmas cruise had not been able to reach its destination and he sympathized with disappointed passengers. He said that applications for refunds would be treated on their merits.

Police assess clues after bombing reconstruction

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Detectives are still assessing the public response to the weekend reconstruction of the Harrods bombing in London but no one has yet pinpointed when the bomber's car was parked or produced a description of its driver.

The Austin 1300 GT is probably the best clue Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad has to the Provisional IRA active service unit now held responsible for a total of four bombs in two and a half weeks. Police fear the unit will strike again, possibly at a military or political target.

As the heavy police presence on central London's streets continued yesterday the detective squad formed to investigate the Harrods bombing continued to examine information from the public and possible witnesses.

One theory is that the Austin was parked in a bay kept by another car parked earlier. The Austin may also have been driven around until a bay was found or even left very early in the morning.

The car was parked the wrong way in the one-way section of Hans Crescent and that could have been done much more easily when there was little traffic.

If that theory is right the bombers fed the meter during the morning and then unlocked the car to set the timing device on the bomb shortly after midday.

Yesterday Scotland Yard announced that the last of the four men held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act a week ago during investigations into the bombing had been released. Mr Gerry Small, convicted for conspiracy to cause explosions in Birmingham in 1975, was served with an exclusion order, under which he was returned to Belfast.

Police Constable John Gordon, aged 30, the dog handler who lost a leg in the Harrods blast, remained in a critical but stable condition in Westminster Hospital yesterday.

Two other policemen are also still in hospital. Sergeant Andrew Melham was reported to have had a restless night at St Thomas's but was said to be progressing well. Sergeant Christopher Slanger was described as fairly comfortable in Westminster Hospital.

More than 300 people, including 100 uniformed police officers, packed a Roman Catholic church yesterday for a memorial Mass for Police Sergeant Noel Lane, aged 28, who was killed in the blast.

The priest who preached the sermon was an Irishman, Father Barry Wymes, whose father was the police commissioner in the Irish Republic when the present troubles first flared up in the late 1960s.

In his sermon Father Wymes attacked the terrorists who murdered six people and injured 90. The service was at St Joseph's Church, Redhill, Surrey, where Sergeant Lane worshipped.

Londoners want to keep GLC, poll says

By Richard Dowden

Well over twice as many Londoners are against the Government's plan to abolish the Greater London Council as are for it, according to an opinion poll released yesterday.

The Harris Research Centre found that 59 per cent of those questioned said they disapproved of the Government's decision to abolish the GLC, while only 22 per cent said they supported it; 31 per cent of Conservative voters said they disapproved of the plans.

The survey was carried out this month among a representative quota sample of 1,041 people in the Greater London area.

It suggests that Londoners want a single representative body responsible for the capital's services. More than three quarters of those questioned said it was important, and more than half said it was very important.

The survey has little comfort for the Government, which intends to replace the GLC with more powerful boroughs and several joint boards to run some services. Of Conservative voters 65 per cent said they thought it important that the city had an elected body responsible for its services and 30 per cent said they thought the Government had handled the issue badly.

Attitudes over the issue seem to be hardening. More people disapprove of abolition now than in October, when a MORI poll was conducted.

Of those who supported abolition in the Harris poll, 38 per cent said they felt more strongly about the issue now than earlier in the year, and 39 per cent of those who disapproved of abolition said they felt more strongly now.

There appeared to be little difference in attitude between those who lived in inner London or outer London areas.

Reagan should meet Andropov, Owen says

By Our Political Reporter

Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader and former Labour Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that there would be "great merit" in a summit meeting between President Andropov and President Reagan.

Although Mr Andropov was clearly not well enough at present, and there was no advantage for Mr Reagan in meeting a deputy, there should be an eventual summit to discuss questions of European security, the Middle East and nuclear force reductions.

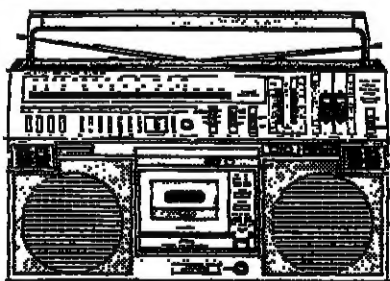
Dr Owen said that it was "potentially very dangerous" that Mr Andropov was not fit enough to undertake "personal diplomacy". There was great merit in a direct confrontation, with Mr Reagan having to match his public rhetoric to face with Mr Andropov, and Mr Andropov doing likewise.

On past experience when leaders had met in this way, they had discussed more common ground than they expected.

Countess fined

Lady Lichfield, the wife of Lord Lichfield, the photographer, was fined £20 with £10 costs by Camberwell magistrates in south London yesterday for failing to pay a parking ticket.

HARRODS SALE



Reductions on JVC Audio Equipment

Example illustrated: Stereo Radio Cassette Recorder Model RCM80L 12-station random pre-sets on radio. Four speakers. Metal tape facility. Harrods Original Price £279 Sale Price £99

Not shown: Video Cassette Recorder Model HR765SEK VHS with stereo sound facility. Two-speed up to 8 hours recording. Remote control. 14 day/8 event timer. Harrods Original Price £679 Sale Price £629 JVC Hi-Fi System Amplifier 2 x 50 watts, tuner, turntable, cassette deck with metal tape, two-way speakers and rack. Harrods Original Price £625 Sale Price £469 All made in Japan.

Radio, Television & Audio. Second Floor. Carriage free within our van delivery area. All reductions are from Harrods previous prices.

INTEREST-FREE CREDIT AGREEMENTS available on certain items. Ask for written details. Sale Opening Hours: Until Saturday 14th January 9am to 6pm. Wednesday 9am to 7pm. From then on, 9am to 5pm daily. Wednesdays 9am to 7pm. Saturdays 9am to 6pm.

SALE STARTS FRIDAY 6TH JANUARY 9AM TO 6PM



Pan-A
Concor
Building
private
Stores see
curb £1bn
Video pho

Pan-Am demands end to 'unfair' Concorde competition

By Tony Samstag

Pan American World Airways has accused the Government and British Airways of unfair competition in its Concorde fare structure and has asked the American authorities to suspend those fares.

British Airways denied yesterday that its Concorde flights on the Atlantic route were unfairly subsidized. It added: "Concorde are making a useful contribution to profits. The fares are certainly not below costs."

Pan-Am's complaint, filed on Tuesday with the US Civil Aeronautics Board, alleges that British Airways has been allowed to set fares "virtually at will" with first class fares on subsonic aircraft on its routes between London and New York and Washington. The Concorde return fare between London and New York is £2,399; first-class travel on a British Airways subsonic Boeing 747 is £1,986. The difference, about 20 per cent, remained fairly constant since 1977.

Concorde's operating profit, which British Airways estimates at about £10m this year, is made possible in large part by savings in capital cost. The airline was in effect given seven Concorde by the Government after an Anglo-French development project to which this country paid £900m.

This year's profits, about 80 per cent of which are to be paid back to the Government, have benefited from a variety of charter contracts, including a recent £5.5m deal with Cunard for a combination package with cruises on QE2.

Pan-Am's application in which it says Concorde's fare structure has caused a "significant amount of first class traffic to be diverted from US flag carriers to British Airways", comes during a US price war on flights to Britain. Some budget packages, which restricted times of travel, offer savings of about 50 per cent on full fares.

The issue of Concorde had been "a simmering and festering problem" in bilateral fare negotiations for some time, a spokesman for Pan-Am said yesterday. "It is a classic case of capacity-dumping."

Some American airlines have also been showing concern at British Airways' application to extend its service to Miami by way of Washington, creating a profitable British "gateway" to South America.

Pan-Am estimates that first-class fares, lost to Concorde total about £20m a year. Provisional figures show that the number of Concorde passengers grew this year by 2.6 per cent, with 75,000 travelling to and from New York and 10,000 to and from Washington.

Pan-Am's own fare structure means that Concorde prices for the New York-London route are only 10.2 per cent more than the first-class fare on an American subsonic aircraft. From Washington the difference is only 3.7 per cent. The American carriers argue that Concorde fares should be about 50 per cent above their subsonic first-class equivalents.

Mr Kenneth Warren, Conservative MP for Hastings and Rye and an aviation expert, said yesterday: "Pan-Am has had an equal chance with British Airways to operate Concorde and it cancelled the order. I have never known Pan-Am American to be slow at discounting tickets, particularly when it was waging war against Laker."

British Airways, which cut the price of 100,000 Enterprise holidays before Christmas, to make them on average 11 per cent cheaper than for this summer, reacted yesterday to the latest moves in the holiday price war by restating a pledge to match any competitor's price (Robin Wright).

Mr Alan Waddell, general manager of British Airways tour operations, said: "We will not be undersold. We are confident that our prices are the cheapest for those holidays we have in common with Thomson and Intasun. If anyone finds an identical holiday to one of ours sold through a travel agent by any other operator, we will match that price."

British Airways is also increasing travel agents' commission by 1 per cent, to 11 per cent, until March 31 "to protect the retail trade from the serious financial effects the price war could have on them."

CONCORDE AND ITS RIVALS

	Concorde	First Class (subsonic)	APEX
Fare to New York	£2,399	£1,928	£299-£349
Fare to Washington	£2,426	£2,258	£329-£340
Time to New York	3hr 55min	7hr 40min	7hr 40min
Time to Washington	4hr 20min	8hr 15min	8hr 15min
Luggage	32in	60in	30in
Free drinks and food			
Separate check-in		Separate check-in	
Concorde lounge		Executive lounge	

All fares British Airways return



Tea and sympathy: Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, handing out hot drinks to homeless people at a warehouse in Vauxhall, south London, yesterday. The centre was used by Crisis at Christmas for five days to provide food and shelter to the single homeless. "I hope more people will be prepared to identify themselves with the unemployed", Mr Murray said (Photograph: John Voos).

Sightseeing in England

Pleasure parks grow in popularity

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

New tourist attractions, from heritage centres to adventure rides in mechanized pleasure parks, kept up the number of sightseers in 1982 despite a drop in popularity of longer established attractions, according to an English Tourist Board report published yesterday.

But the most popular attraction was the Science Museum (3.3 million visits), while the Tower of London was the most popular among those charging admissions (1.9 million).

The British Museum (2.7 million) moved from fourth to second position, overtaking the National Gallery (2.6 million) and the Natural History Museum (2.3 million).

Where admissions were charged the next most popular attractions were Madame Tussaud's (1.9 million) and Alton Towers (1.6 million).

Alton Towers, on the edge of the Potteries and strongly influenced by Disneyland, has several adventure rides, including a double corkscrew roller coaster.

The appeal to young adults has widened the attraction of leisure and amusement parks when a birthrate reduction could have affected them in line with the decline in visits over the past six years to wildlife parks, the survey suggests.

Kettering's Wicksteed Park added five rides, including a roller coaster and a pirate ship, during 1982. Admissions rose from 750,000 in 1981 to 1.25 million.

There were 161 million sightseeing visits last year, of which museums and galleries accounted for 51 million; historic buildings 48 million; wildlife attractions 16 million, and gardens more than seven million.

Direct comparisons with the 157 million visitors in 1981 cannot be made because of the inclusion of new attractions.

But visits to historic buildings dropped by 1 per cent and those to museums and wildlife centres by 2 per cent.

Heritage centres, of which a score have opened since Chester pioneered the idea in 1975, are benefiting from an increase in general sightseeing in historic towns, the survey says.

The Tudor wreck, Mary Rose, exhibits pushed admissions to Southsea Castle up by 156 per cent, to 205,659.

The survey identifies a "Falkland factor" effect at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, the Royal Marines Museum, and the Royal Army Medical Corps Museum.

Sightseeing in 1982 (Department: D. English Tourist Board, 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DU; £4, post free.

BBC rabbit vivisection report criticized

By David Hewson

A complaint against the BBC by Sheffield University has been partly upheld after a television programme aired allegations that stolen pet rabbits were used for vivisection experiments in a university laboratory.

The *Forty Minutes* documentary *Rabbits Don't Cry*, broadcast on October 21 last year, reported that a stolen pet had been found at Lodge Moor laboratory and was later reunited with its owner. The director of the laboratory had refused to be interviewed on the programme, but the BBC accepted that the university was innocent of the theft.

However, the Broadcasting Complaints Commission has ruled that the programme implied that on other occasions stolen pets would have been found at the laboratory.

"As the university was given no opportunity to rebut the allegations, the commission have no doubt that viewers could have concluded from the programme that the university stole, or used, stolen pets. This was unfair", the commission's adjudication, published today, says.

The university complained that undue prominence was given to placards and comments from protesters alleging that stolen pets were used, through, after some of the protesters had been allowed into the laboratory, the presenter concluded: "The protesters found no evidence of stolen pets at Lodge Moor on this visit."

The commission did not uphold the university's complaint that the filming of the protesters was unfair.

But the adjudication adds: "By bringing the incident of the released pet into the programme, however, the BBC had raised the issue of pet stealing and the validity of the argument whether or not the university either stole or used stolen pets became a major issue."

The commission accepted that the programme producer believed from her research that the released pet had been stolen, but it was not satisfied on the evidence presented to it that the case had been proved.

Building boom for private houses

By John Young

Private house-building is enjoying its best period since the mid-1970s, and the market should remain buoyant next year, according to the latest figures from the National House-Building Council (NHBC) and two leading building societies.

Mr Andrew Tait, director general of the NHBC, said yesterday that new building starts this year were estimated at 170,000, the best for more than 10 years. Completions were 24 per cent up, at 152,000, the highest for seven years.

There were now 100,000 more jobs in private housing than three years ago, helping to compensate for losses in other parts of the construction industry, he said.

Among the reasons for the expanded market were the building of smaller units and the introduction of financial packages that made it easier for first-time buyers to meet the initial payments.

Predictions for next year were complicated by uncertainty over United States interest rates and an adequate supply of building land. But underlying potential demand remained strong as more people set up new homes in smaller households.

The best guess was that both starts and completions in the private sector should exceed 150,000, and more if interest rates fell.

Average house prices are estimated by the Nationwide Building Society to have risen by 12 per cent. The Leeds Permanent puts the figure somewhat lower at 9.4 per cent, but both societies point out that the increase is well above the rate of inflation.

Nationwide calculates that the average price of a home at the end of this year was £28,720, and the average mortgage advance £20,030. But there were wide variations between regions, increases ranging from 16 per cent to 18 per cent in London and the South-east to 7 per cent in Wales and Northern Ireland.

Although the house price index is nearly three times that of 10 years ago, it has increased more slowly than the retail price index.

But Mr Malcolm Hughes, the society's general manager (market planning), said yesterday that he expected house prices next year to continue to catch up on their long term relationship with average earnings.

Drink-drive worry for police chief

Strathclyde police have caught more drinking drivers without a Christmas purge than other forces which have stopped and breathalysed up to 10 times as many motorists.

Over the past five days they have carried out 96 positive tests and 29 negative ones. By comparison, the Derbyshire force, which had a Christmas clampdown, recorded 53 positive tests and 935 negative ones over 12 days. In Derbyshire last year 105 of 1,479 tests were positive.

An Automobile Association official said: "We are delighted that so many people have taken the advice not to drink if they are driving."

But Mr Alistair Petrie, Assistant Chief Constable of Strathclyde, said he was disappointed that such a high proportion of motorists in his area had ignored the advice.

"We do not run purges, but over the festive season we do keep a high profile", he said. Motorists stopped for traffic offences or after accidents were tested if they were suspected of drinking.

Mr Petrie said he could not predict how many more motorists would have been caught if there had been a purge, but he hoped that more drivers would leave their cars at home for the new year celebrations.

Figures from several other forces show a reduction in the proportion of positive tests.

Call for immediate ban on 'risk' drugs

By Thomson Prentice, Medical Reporter

The delay in banning "potentially hazardous" cold remedies from sale in chemist shops without prescriptions was putting many people at risk, Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, said yesterday. He called for the immediate withdrawal of the products.

However, the Department of Health and Social Security said that its plan to limit the remedies 12 months from now was "purely a precautionary measure" and that there was no cause for concern.

The department has written to drug manufacturers asking them to reduce the content of phenylpropanolamine (PPA), an ingredient that helps to dry runny noses, in their products. PPA has been reported to have side effects including dangerously high blood pressure, heart problems, strokes, and hallucinations.

"Our proposal is that later in 1984 we should introduce regulations which will say that if a product has more than 25 milligrams of PPA in a single dose, whether it is a capsule, tablet, or spoonful, the product will be subject to a prescription-only order", the department said.

Cold remedies that contain PPA include Contac 400, Sinutab, Mu-Cron, Procol, and Beechams Catarrh Capsules. But the department said: "The hazards which have been observed were at much higher dosages than are now available. We are pressing to halve the present dosages purely as a precaution."

Mr Ashley has written to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, saying: "The ban you are imposing is only to come into effect in 12 months. This is an indefensible delay which puts drug company profits before the health of the people."

"If the drugs are too risky for over-the-counter sales in 12 months' time, they are too risky now."

The department has invited the manufacturers to respond to its letter by January 16.

£100 fine for smoking in court

A man was fined £100 for contempt of court yesterday after he lit a cigarette in the public gallery at West London Magistrates' Court. He had also drunk a cup of coffee in the gallery.

The magistrate, Mr Eric Crowther, had ordered Stephen Miles, aged 19, a warehouse manager, of Westbury Road, Ealing, west London, to be arrested as he waited for his brother to appear on a charge of using threatening behaviour.

Troubled passenger predicted last cruise

By Kenneth Gosting

Mr Eric Wright, who disappeared with his wife, Olive, on a Christmas sea trip, told a family friend, the Rev John Rees, the night before leaving: "This will be the last cruise I take on the QE2."

Mr Wright, aged 65, a businessman with a furnishing and upholstery company, had a furnishing contract on the QE2 and often used to take his wife on board.

The couple vanished from the ship on Christmas night, leaving a note in their cabin.

Both had appeared happy that day and joined in the celebrations, but they failed to appear for Christmas dinner or for breakfast the next day and the alarm was raised.

Yesterday Mr Rees disclosed that Mrs Wright, aged 64, was "a very sick woman". He said she had sometimes appeared to be nearly in a coma and did not know what was happening around her. "Mr Wright loved his wife very much", Mr Rees said.

One of the Wrights' sons-in-law, Mr John Tompkins, said: "He used to worry about her a lot. They were in good spirits when they left."

The Wrights came originally from Sheffield and had lived in Canford Cliffs, between Poole and Bournemouth, for the past 25 years.

An inquest was opened when the QE2 reached St Thomas in the Virgin Islands. It will be resumed in Britain.

The QE2, which is on a Caribbean cruise, is due in New York next Wednesday.

Stores seek ways to curb £1bn vandalism

By a Staff Reporter

The year just ending has seen a wave of damage to and theft from shops that, according to one estimate will have cost Britain's stores £1,000m.

One London company that supplies vandal-proof materials has completed a survey which shows, according to its sales director, Mr Tom Ellison, that the past year has shown an even greater increase in the problem than in previous years.

Spray-can graffiti are still much in evidence and sharp instruments are being used to damage shopfronts and interior fittings.

The findings of the company, Rigidized Metals, which sent its salesmen to carry out interviews in 200 stores, are borne out by Lady Phillips, director of the Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops. She is supporting a private member's Bill on trespass to be introduced in the House of Lords.

"It's so amusing to me to read about the problems of shoplifting by poor little old ladies when you know what things are really like", she said. "I believe the Bill, which would make trespass a criminal offence, would help this problem."

Video stream, will also be introduced next year.

The equipment is bulky, so British Telecom expects the service to appeal to business rather than personal users.

In a new year message to customers and staff, Sir George said that 1984 would go down "as the year when the communications system of the twenty-first century began to take shape".



Chess mastery (left to right): Lev Alburt, a Russian emigrant to the United States where he is rated number two; Britain's Nigel Short, now aiming for Grandmaster; and Gyula Sax, the Hungarian number three, at the start of the 59th International Chess Congress in Hastings yesterday (Photographs: Harry Kerr).

BBC poll 'open to lobbying'

By a Staff Reporter

The BBC poll which made Mr Bruce Kent man of the year and Mrs Margaret Thatcher woman of the year could have been the subject of a most clever lobby, Mr Julian Holland, the editor of the radio programme, *Today*, which organized it, said yesterday.

The poll of *Today* listeners was based on "a few thousand post cards" after a small number, from an obvious lobby in favour of a candidate Mr Holland declined to name, were rejected.

"There was less reason to discount votes this year than last year, and very few were discounted. That is not to say a most clever lobby has not taken place."

"I have always regarded the poll as being a bit of fun at the end of the year, but I do get terribly serious letters from people asking how we can do this kind of thing", Mr Holland said.

Today checked listeners' post cards to try to ensure that the result was not "rigged".

"We go through the cards very carefully and we can find things that make it fairly clear when a lobby is operating. Obviously CND supporters are going to vote for Bruce Kent, but Conservatives will vote for Margaret Thatcher."

"What we have to try to do is discourage the organized lobby, where people who are not listeners to the programme spoil everyone's fun."

Mr Holland refused to disclose the margin of Mr Kent's lead over the man in second place Mr Eddie Shah, the proprietor of the *Stockport Messenger* newspaper. If we were to give people an idea of the difference on the votes it would then make the lobbyists' task easier.

Leading article, page 11

Teacher fights council for job

A High Court judge gave leave yesterday to a teacher to challenge her dismissal from Orleans infants' school by Richmond upon Thames Borough Council in south-west London and to seek an order directing the council to allow her to teach in a suitable school.

Princess Asokamala Lakshmi Tammita-Deleaga, of Lower Richmond Road, Richmond, who is supported by the Asian Teacher's Forum, says the council acted unfairly and unlawfully in accepting the school governors' dismissal recommendation.

Olivier home to write book

Lord Olivier, who left St Thomas's Hospital, London, on December 23 after a kidney operation, is preparing to write a book to be called *Olivier on Acting*.

The actor, aged 76, is also to appear in an Anglia Television play, *Lovesong*, by Jeffrey Archer, in May.

Audi recalls 4,000 cars

Audi is recalling up to 4,000 of the 100 series models in Britain after reports of the left rear brake hose chafing against a retaining clip.

"There is a risk of one of the two circuits failing during use", a company official said. But the driver would still have a back-up circuit.

TV for budgie

Bluey the budgie got his own three-inch £250 colour television set for Christmas, as a gift from his owner, Mrs Elizabeth Porter, aged 36, of Cumpsty Road, Litherland, Merseyside.

Fire kills three

Samuel Kelly, aged 62, his daughter Catherine, aged 28, and his granddaughter Susan, aged 9, died yesterday in a fire, believed to have been started by Christmas tree lights, at their home in Cork.

Postal Services in London W12

The three-week postal strike in the W12 district of London is now over and mail addressed to the area is being delivered.

It will take some time to deal with the huge backlog of mail caused by the dispute. However, the Post Office is giving as normal service as possible to newly posted items, while simultaneously tackling the large backlog.

The Post Office apologises to customers for the inconvenience caused to them by this dispute.

The Post Office

Israel reviews Lebanon policy in attempt to cut casualty list

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

A sweeping review of Israel's security policy in southern Lebanon is being conducted by military chiefs and new proposals aimed at cutting down the continuing high rate of Israeli casualties are due to be presented to the government for approval early next year.

Lieutenant General Moshe Levy, the Chief of Staff, claimed yesterday that the continuing presence in southern Lebanon remained vital for the security of Israel's northern border.

He confirmed that a key aspect of the review remained the policy of maintaining open bridges along the Awali River, near Israel's front line. There is strong pressure inside the army for the bridges to be shut to reduce the flow of explosives used for ambushes, but that

would lead to the virtual partition of Lebanon.

Since the middle of September, over 40 Israelis have been killed in southern Lebanon, including the 29 who died in the Tyre suicide bombing. The latest attack took place yesterday when one soldier was killed and two wounded near the town of Jezzine.

Another suggestion is a second withdrawal to a new front line along the Zaharani River. Such a controversial move would put the main south Lebanese city of Sidon outside Israeli control, and could have serious economic and social consequences in Lebanon.

In recent weeks, most of the attacks against Israeli targets have been concentrated in the Sidon area, and the approach

road to the city along the coast is now known to disgruntled Israeli soldiers as "bomb alley". Army officers acknowledge that opinion is divided about the desirability of a second withdrawal southwards.

General Levy paid an unexpected compliment to the retrained Lebanese Army about which Israeli commanders have been scathing in the past. The Chief of Staff said that he was surprised at its efficiency. Its men, plus the Lebanese Druze militia, were capable of controlling terrorism in the area, he said.

● CAIRO: A senior Egyptian foreign ministry representative will visit Israel today for talks on bilateral issues (Reuters reports).



All in favour: Members of the Politburo voting during a meeting of the Supreme Soviet (front left to right): Andrei Gromyko, Konstantin Chernenko, Nikolai Tikhonov; (second row): Grigory Romanov, Viktor Grishin, Mikhail Gorbachev; (third row): Boris Ponomarev (candidate member), Dinmukhamed Kunayer, Mikhail Solomentsev, and three unnamed in the back row, one with voting rights.

Symbols of continuity at Supreme Soviet

There was none of the mild excitement which gripped the Supreme Soviet this time last year, when the 1,500 deputies not only raised their hands in automatic approval of party resolutions but also studied the *Pravda* text of the new leader's first speech and stared at him sitting on the platform.

Yesterday, it was Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, aged 75, Prime Minister to both President Brezhnev and President Andropov, who sat in the hot seat, a symbol of reassurance and experience but not of impending change.

Further along in the front row were Mr Konstantin Chernenko, Mr Andropov's white-haired but vigorous rival, and two more symbols of continuity: Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, and Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister.

Earlier there were rumours that Mr

Tikhonov was on the way out and might be replaced as Prime Minister either by Mr Geidar Aliyev, the ambitious former Azerbaijan leader, aged 60, or by Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov, aged 57, President Andropov's old protégé, who on Monday rose with meteoric speed to become a full Politburo member. But yesterday, at least there were no surprises, and neither Mr Aliyev nor Mr Vorotnikov looked as if they were about to take over.

Down in the body of the hall the deputies, drawn from all over the Soviet Union, sat reading documents in a neat blue folder.

Other deputies are less anonymous: Mr Andrei Kirilenko, once Brezhnev's chosen successor but removed from the Politburo by Mr Andropov last year, appeared briefly, a ghost from the past, occasionally glancing up at the platform.

Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the Chief of

Staff, walked about the hall in uniform, gripping deputies' elbows and holding deep discussions, possibly on President Reagan's anxieties about "bellicose statements" by "top Soviet military leaders".

He returned to his seat, the only delegate without a blue folder, and sat impassively with his hands gripping the cleared desk-top. In front of him Professor Georgy Arbatov, the Kremlin's top American expert, sat reading *Pravda*, while Mr Balbakov, the head of Gosplan, the State Planning Committee, gave a methodical recitation of industrial statistics.

As fresh falls of snow drifted past the high windows of the Great Hall, most deputies chatted, dozed or reread Mr Andropov's Monday speech, in which he said Russia's production included 500,000 television sets, 115,000 radios and 250,000 cameras, which did not work.

Arafat to convene Fatah talks in Tunis

Tunis (AFP) - Mr Yasser Arafat is expected here tonight to convene a meeting of the leadership of Fatah, the divided Palestinian Liberation Organization's leading component.

Some Fatah central committee members are already here, waiting to ask Mr Arafat why he met President Mubarak of Egypt last week in Cairo. Others may boycott the meeting altogether.

Mr Arafat's meeting with President Mubarak has been widely criticized within the PLO, which strongly condemned the Egyptian peace agreement with Israel and subsequently refused contacts with Cairo.

ADEN: About 580 PLO fighters, including 52 families, evacuated from Lebanon with Mr Arafat, have arrived in South Yemen to join another 1,000 men evacuated from Beirut after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. (Reuters reports).

Mr Arafat is at present in Sana'a, North Yemen, where he and other PLO leaders have been working out a new strategy.

Beirut tries to save fragile truce

Beirut (Reuters) - A fragile truce between the Lebanese Army and Shia militiamen held for the second day yesterday as a special security committee met in an effort to devise a lasting peace.

The committee met for the first time after the representative for the Shia Amal movement agreed to suspend his boycott. The army, Druze Progressive Socialist Party and Christian coalition, known as the "Lebanese Forces", are also represented on the four-man committee.

No significant violations of the truce were reported yesterday but Beirut radio said a mortar shell landed near an army position in the eastern sector of the battle zone in Beirut's southern suburbs, wounding two civilians.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister, Mr Elie Salem, met the American, French and Italian ambassadors to discuss their views on the presence of

Summing up begins in Simonstown spy trial

From Michael Horanby Johannesburg

The Judge-President of the Cape, Mr Justice G. G. A. Munik, yesterday began delivery "in camera" of his judgment in the Cape Supreme Court in one of South Africa's most sensational spy trials. His verdict is expected today.

On trial on charges of high treason, which carry a maximum penalty of death by hanging, are Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, the former commander of the dockyard at the Simonstown naval base, and his wife, Ruth, both pleaded not guilty when the trial began on September 5.

Commodore Gerhardt is accused of having spied for the Soviet Union for 21 years, and Mrs Gerhardt, his second wife, is alleged to have helped him since 1970 to maintain a secret communications network with agents used by the USSR "by means of so-called dead-letter boxes and/or drops, radio transmissions, couriers and personal visits to foreign countries to communicate with said agents".

The indictment was read during an open session lasting only 10 minutes at the start of the trial. Since then all proceedings have been held in secret.

The case has aroused considerable interest in Britain and the US where there is speculation that Commodore Gerhardt could have passed to the Russians contingency plans for possible use by the West of the Simonstown naval base in the event of a world war.

Assad fear allayed by editor

Paris (NYT) - A French magazine editor, who interviewed President Hafez al-Assad of Syria last week said the President had told him he was convalescing but had not specified the nature of his illness.

M. Michel Columes, the managing editor of the weekly news magazine *Le Point*, described Mr Assad as looking, all in all, rather well. He believed that he and a reporter for *Le Point* Mme Mireille Dutel, were the first Westerners to see the President in over a month.

President Assad has not been seen in public since the middle of November, and there has been speculation in Western capitals about his health, with some reports suggesting that he was partly paralysed.

M. Columes and Mme Dutel talked with Mr Assad for about an hour and a half last Tuesday in a small private house near Damascus. Their interview was originally scheduled to last 15 minutes.

When the President walked into the room, M. Columes said, he was slightly stooped. "He walked with relative precaution. He didn't walk like a guy normally does."

The editor said he had heard outside Syria that Mr Assad's right side had been affected by his illness.

Grenada visit seen as Strauss manoeuvre

From Michael Blyden, Bonn

Among the many diplomatic and political coups of Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the ambitious Prime Minister of Bavaria, his unexpected visit to Grenada must count as one of his cleverest attempts to influence German foreign policy while increasing his party's weight in the Bonn coalition and his own visibility on the world stage.

Herr Strauss, interrupting a Caribbean holiday, arrived in St George's with his wife on Tuesday from Florida after an aircraft had been put at his disposal. He said Bonn and the European Community should support the beginning of democracy in the island, and

Freed Zimbabwe officers on their way home

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

The last three Zimbabwean Air Force officers of the group detained over aircraft sabotage are due to fly out of here tonight on one-way tickets.

Wing Commander John Cox, aged 36, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, aged 31, and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir, aged 24, were released from Chikurubi maximum security prison last Thursday and given a week to sort out their affairs.

They had spent the last 16 months in custody, although acquitted in August of charges of involvement in the Thornhill sabotage operation last year.

Wing Commander Cox and

Oil repairs ravages of war and ideology

By Richard Dowden

"One pound and a half, one thousand rial, very cheap," said the Tehran shopkeeper, a rather despondent old man with a stall of cheap jewellery.

"But a pound is only 130 rials," I said, puzzled.

"You change it on black market you get 700 rial, maybe more," said the shopkeeper.

"Would you take British pounds?" I asked.

"No, it's too dangerous, but many people will."

We broke off negotiations. A combination of shortages, inflation and very strict controls on foreign currency has given the Iranian economy some peculiar twists.

Prices tend to follow the black market price for the dollar, so that anyone buying in Iran with money changed at the official rate pays about seven or eight times the real price. Foreign currency and imported goods are in great demand but penalties for black marketeering are fierce.

Basic foodstuffs are rationed and cheap but on the black market prices are erratic. For example, every family is entitled to 6 kilos (13lb) of rice per

week at 190 rials per kilo (about £1.50). On the black market rice has sometimes reached 1,100 rials a kilo.

Ration cards are distributed by the mosques, which gives the mullahs some political power but also means that they will be blamed if things go wrong. There have already been reports of mullahs being attacked by angry crowds accusing them of corruption.

The three-year-old Gulf War, which soaks up a third of the national income, has imposed considerable hardship on the people, but their expectations have been lowered by a blood, sweat and tears attitude, and the Government presents the hardship as sacrifice for the war effort.

Considering the earthquakes that the Iranian economy has suffered in recent years it is in remarkably good shape. The revolution in 1979, bringing in a strongly ideological government which caused a flight of capital and skilled manpower, followed by the Iraqi attack in 1980, would have devastated most economies.

The Khomeini regime is,

however, far more pragmatic in some matters than its rhetoric would suggest. It has managed to keep the oil flowing, and is now beginning to revitalize the development of the country's vast mineral resources.

Iran is exporting at least 1.7 million barrels of oil a day, and could produce more if gas injection was used in some of the wells. Its foreign debt has been paid off, and it now has reserves estimated at about \$6bn (£4.3bn).

The strict import controls imposed because of the war have hampered development and shortages have created an inflation rate of between 20 and 40 per cent. Unemployment is running at between three and four million, or about 20 per cent of the workforce.

The Government is trying to bring down unemployment by boosting oil-based industries and reviving agriculture. Foodstuffs are now the second biggest import item after war materials.

But the main economic problems facing the Government have political roots. The first is the power of the *bazaris*,

the traditional merchant families ranging from street sellers to big importers.

According to Islam, while ostentation and extravagance are discouraged, wealth as such is not. The rich man is supposed to support his poorer brethren by *zakah*, gifts to the poor. The Government hopes that somehow the rich will be devout enough to distribute their wealth for the good of the community.

Meanwhile, the bigger *bazaris* are making more money than they did under the Shah, and their inclination is to get it transferred into dollars and out of the country as fast as they can. Failure to come to terms with their wealth and power could cost the Government the support of its younger revolutionaries, who are inspired by ideals of social justice.

The second problem comes with the plan to Islamicize the economy. There is no working model of an Islamic economy, and the Government is trying to abolish bank interest in accordance with the Koran's prohibition on usury.

Gas blast and fire kills six in Buffalo

Buffalo (Reuters, AP) - Six people died in a propane gas explosion in central Buffalo on Tuesday night. Five of the dead were firemen and the sixth was a civilian.

The explosion and fire destroyed 37 houses, two blocks of flats, a church, a warehouse and several businesses. Thirteen firemen and 47 local residents were injured.

The blast occurred in temperatures of 20°F (-6°C) at about 8.30 pm local time

(1.30 am GMT on Wednesday), just minutes after three fire vehicles had arrived to check a report of a propane leak around a bakery supply building and an adjacent four-story brick warehouse.

About 15 firemen were searching for the leak in and around the warehouse when the building exploded with two blasts felt up to 15 miles away. Windows were broken half a mile away.

The fire after the explosion spread quickly to the adjacent bakery and wood-frame houses, and more than 150 firemen fought to control the flames. The blaze, so hot it melted parts of fire vehicles and covered a square mile with thick black smoke, raged out of control for more than three hours. A fireman said that when he arrived with the fourth group of fire vehicles the block was "a sea of fire."

Debris crushed one fire vehicle and badly damaged two others.

Aftermath: All that remained of a row of buildings after the gas explosion

French industry, page 13

Bangladesh polling suspended after riots

Dhaka (Reuters) - Voting in at least 17 rural election centres across Bangladesh has been suspended after at least 150 people were injured in clashes between supporters of rival candidates.

Police were said to have opened fire to disperse crowds who beat up polling officers and intimidated voters. At least a dozen people were killed during the campaign.

Hard labour for Estonians

Stockholm - Ten Estonians have been sentenced to between eight and 15 years' hard labour by the Tallin High Court, an exile organization in Stockholm said. (Christopher Mosey writes).

The ten were accused of plundering state property, accepting bribes and abusing their official positions, according to Aid Central for Political Prisoners in Estonia.

Liberian coup trial adjourned

Abidjan (Reuters) Nineteen people have appeared before a Monrovia military tribunal charged with high treason in connection with a plot to overthrow General Doe, the Liberian leader.

The trial was adjourned after the defence argued that no specific charges had been laid. Brigadier-General Thomas Quiwonkpa, who is alleged to have masterminded the plot, is widely believed to have escaped abroad.

Seoul scandal

Seoul (Reuters) A former South Korean Cabinet minister found guilty of accepting bribes has been sentenced to seven years in jail and fined \$70,000. Yoon Ja Jung, a former Transport Minister, had pleaded not guilty.

US meat ban

Washington (AFP) - The United States has barred imports of meat and chicken from 14 countries, including Mexico and France, because standards of checking are considered too lax.

Election delay

Colombo (Reuters) President Jayewardene has postponed parliamentary elections in northern and eastern Sri Lanka because of the unsettled security situation.

Court refusal

San Francisco (Reuters) - The California Supreme Court has refused to hear a plea from a woman suffering from cerebral palsy that she be allowed to starve herself to death. Miss Elizabeth Bouvia, aged 26, who is confined to a wheelchair has said her life has lost all its value.

Dates for Zhao

Peking (AFP) - China has announced the dates for Mr Zhao Ziyang's visit next month to North America. The Prime Minister will visit the United States from January 10 to 16, and Canada from January 17 to 23.

Polish congress

Warsaw (Reuters) The Polish Communist Party is to hold in March its first full-scale meeting since an emergency congress in 1981 at the height of the Solidarity challenge.

Boy accused

Nairobi (Reuters) - A five-year-old boy has appeared in court at Eldoret, western Kenya, accused of murdering another five-year-old, who died after being hit on the head with a blunt object.

Kabul

blasted (AP) - The first year of Soviet occupation of Afghanistan was marked by an increase in the number of deaths in the country.

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Economic reality makes East Germany Bonn's reluctant friend

From Michael Blyden, Bonn

As a sombre and difficult year for West Germany comes to an end, Bonn is looking optimistically at the one area in international relations where things seem to be brighter than for many years - relations with East Germany.

There are strong hopes here that the extraordinary momentum in strengthening links can be controlled. The Kohl Government has already dismissed as unfounded talk of a new "Ice Age" between the two German states as a result of West German deployment of Nato missiles.

Delicate negotiations with East Berlin over the Berlin surface railway have almost come to a successful conclusion; more talks are due on other areas of cooperation. East Germany is continuing to dismantle automatic firing devices along the frontier, and Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, is expected to make his postponed visit here in the coming year.

No one in the Chancellor's office or the Ministry for Inner-German Relations is under any illusion that the apparent thaw is the result of a change of heart of newly-discovered benevolence towards the Federal Republic among senior party officials. Bonn knows that East Germany is now so dependent economically on West Germany that it cannot afford to antagonize its neighbour.

A look at the figures shows why the relationship is so vital if Herr Honecker is to fulfil his promise to raise living standards and thus win greater popular acceptance for the communist regime.

The world recession has hurt East Germany. Oil deliveries from the Soviet Union have been cut. The country is heavily indebted to the West, owing \$9,400m (£6,270m). More than 80 per cent of Western currency earnings are

used to service its debts. And valuable export markets in the West have shrunk with the recession.

Yet trade between the two states had developed rapidly. In the first six months of this year, West Germany exported the equivalent of DM4,300m (£1,050m) worth of goods - an increase of 33 per cent on the first half of 1982. East German exports to the Federal Republic rose 2 per cent to DM3,600m. Total turnover this year is expected to reach DM15,000m.

There will be a small imbalance of about DM500m in West Germany's favour in 1983 - worrying for East Berlin, which enjoyed a surplus in trade with Bonn in earlier years. East Germany also owes a total of DM5,500m to West German firms for goods already bought.

But East Germany enjoys one vital advantage in trade with its Western neighbour: back-door access to a leading member of the European Community. A

protocol to the Treaty of Rome allows West Germany to import East German goods without their facing the Common Community Tariff Barrier. This privilege is surprisingly little abused. Only 0.8 per cent of these imports were sent on duty-free to other Community countries - and Bonn is vigilant

in trying to stamp out even that small amount.

There is strict limitation on East German agricultural exports. But the country has one much cow which provides it with vast sums of money: West Berlin. Bonn's payments for access to the divided former capital are colossal, amounting last year to a lump sum of DM525m for transit rights, 50m for the use of East German roads, 60.3m for the building and repairs of existing access roads, 37.5m in canal dues, 24m for railway operations and 36m for the environment.

On top of all this, Bonn last year granted credit facilities of DM1,000m. Ironically, according to post-war regulations, West German banks are not permitted to grant credit to East Germany (though they have been lavish with funds for Poland and the Soviet Union). The consortium granting the DM 1,000m had to rely on branches overseas.

But already there is talk - hotly denied by Bonn - that another big credit arrangement is in the offing. For such a thing to be possible, East Germany had to convince Bonn that it is serious in wanting to improve bilateral relations. And that is why inner-German relations are looking so comparatively rosy.



Give and take: Dr Kohl (left) and Herr Honecker.

Dr Runcie to appeal for tortured priest

By Michael Horsnell

Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has been asked to intervene to secure the release from prison of a Romanian Orthodox priest who has allegedly been beaten on the hands to prevent him making the sign of the cross.

The condition of Father Gheorghe Calciu-Dumitreasa, aged 58, who has been incarcerated at Jilava near Bucharest for five years, is said to be poor.

Father Calciu, who has been in and out of prison for 20 years because of his faith and support for a banned free trade union, was the subject of an appeal by Dr Runcie when he visited Romania last year.

Since then, it is understood by the British Romanian Association in London, which has asked Dr Runcie to help, he has been beaten with a stick by guards. It is believed that Dr Runcie will make a private appeal to the Romanian Ambassador.

Canon Christopher Hill, the Archbishop's adviser on ecumenical affairs, said yesterday: "It is understood that Father Calciu's wife visited him last month and found that he spends long periods in solitary confinement. She said his hands were blue and swollen after being kept in prayer. Father Calciu is a distinguished man whom Dr Runcie wishes to help."

Bignone facing second indictment as 'dirty war' inquiry expands

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Barely three weeks after he stepped down as President of Argentina, retired General Reynaldo Bignone finds himself embroiled in investigations into human rights violations during the seven years of military rule.

General Bignone is to testify today, as an indicted party, on the abduction and disappearance in 1978 of a Buenos Aires laboratory technician. He was indicted last week in a separate case, investigation into the kidnapping and presumed murder of two young Communist Party members in 1976.

The cases coincide with bold initiatives by Argentina's newly inaugurated civilian Government to get to the bottom of the military's so-called "dirty war" against left-wing terrorism.

More than 6,000 Argentines are believed to have been abducted and murdered by state security and armed forces personnel after the military seized power in 1976. The military regime proclaimed an amnesty in September this year, which protected from prosecution members of the security agencies and armed forces who carried out what the military calls "repression of subversion" and what human rights groups describe as "genocide."

Repeal of the amnesty was a campaign promise of President Raul Alfonsin and was signed into law by him on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, has announced that Argentina and Chile could be on the way to a settlement of their long-running southern border dispute.

He said on Tuesday that a widely-publicized trip to the Vatican last week by Argentina's special ambassador, Señor Hugo Gobbi, was connected with "new ideas" and "progress" in the mediation that the Pope has been conducting into the dispute since 1979.

The conflict involves sovereignty over islands in the Beagle Channel, near the southern tip of the continent.

Señor Caputo said on Tuesday that he saw the possibility of a basic agreement with Chile "in a relatively short time". The dispute brought the countries to the brink of war five years ago.

The Foreign minister would not confirm persistent reports in the local press that he and his Chilean opposite number, Señor Miguel Schweitzer, would hold a summit in Rome on the Beagle dispute.

President Raul Alfonsin repeatedly promised during his election campaign to bring a swift end to the conflict. He accused the military regimes in both countries of using it to divert public attention from domestic political repression and economic deterioration.



Together again: Giorgio Calissoni being comforted in hospital by his sister Laura after his release by kidnappers who slashed off his ear to reinforce their ransom demand. They held Giorgio, 17, and his mother Anna Bulgari from November 19 until releasing them on Christmas Eve.

Hunger strike in Sardinia jail

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The maximum security wing of a Sardinian prison where at least seven terrorists are on hunger strike is in the news after the Pope's highly publicized visit to the Turkish terrorist Ali Agca in a Rome jail.

Seven condemned terrorists began a hunger strike on December 8 as a protest against what they claim to be excessive restrictions. From December 23 the protest became more serious when the men refused milk and sugar and accepted only water. There is now a suggestion that they may be fed intravenously.

Questions have been tabled in Parliament about the conditions in which the terrorists are held and Signor Marco Pannella, the Radical Party leader, who visited the prison has said that another four men are about to join the hunger strike.

The Sardinian protest comes at a crucial moment for Italian justice. Crime appears to be under control more effectively than at any time in the last decade with the exception of drug traffic.

Up to the end of November, crimes attributed to terrorists were down by 30 per cent, compared with the previous year.

The Pope's action follows a new path being laid down by the Roman Catholic Church in dealing with the problem of prisoners. Last month a meeting of prison chaplains, presided over by Cardinal Martini, the Archbishop of Milan, insisted on the need for protecting human rights and strongly attacked the weakest moral link in Italian justice which is the long wait before trial.

EEC presidency changes hands

Britain holds key to future

The EEC is expected to run short of all the money it needs from next July. In this third and final article, our Brussels Correspondent, Ian Murray, looks at the way in which Britain is seeking to exploit this financial crisis to win a lasting solution to its own budget problems.

Britain, to the mounting frustration of the other member states, now holds the key to the future of the EEC. It does so because the Community must run out of money and stagnate if Mrs Thatcher is not prepared to increase the amount paid over to the EEC budget.

Mrs Thatcher has set two very clear conditions for agreeing to any such increase. They are that agricultural spending must not only be contained but progressively decrease as a percentage of the total budget.

Secondly, she is insisting that member states should be required to pay over to the budget only a contribution which is both fair and in line with their ability to pay.

It was failure to meet these two conditions which led to the collapse of the Athens summit. British officials and ministers involved in the negotiations remain insistent that Britain



Mrs Thatcher: Strong stand expected.

was not, and is not, isolated. But Athens was a fiasco because Britain was not satisfied.

The other member states have therefore to decide to what extent they are willing or able to meet Mrs Thatcher's conditions. Some still cling to the belief that she can be shamed into surrender because the sums of money are so small compared with what is at stake. But the indications are that Mrs Thatcher is even less inclined to turn on this issue than on any other.

For one thing she feels that the great weight of British

popular support is behind her. The tougher she stands against the other member states, the more backing she believes she can expect. Feeling is so strong, in fact, that she may in the end be obliged to go against her better judgment and withhold contributions to the budget.

She would, of course, only do so because rebate money, due to Britain, was not paid. At the moment Britain claims that it is still owed £42m net from 1982, plus the £457m which has just been frozen by the European Parliament. If this were not paid by the end of the British financial year on March 31, there would be enormous political pressure to withhold at least something.

Given the extremely serious state of Community finances, a halt to any part of Britain's £100m a month net contribution would plunge the EEC into debt immediately.

At the same time Mrs Thatcher is aware that by September at the latest, and probably before, the Community will run out of money anyway. If she withholds payment, Britain will take the blame for the financial crisis, which will not help her negotiating position. If she does nothing, the agricultural policy will take the blame for the crisis, which will strengthen her negotiating position.

But that is to ignore the June direct elections to the European Parliament. If there is no settlement by then, and Britain is still paying its full contribution, the Labour Party can be sure to capitalize on it, and could pick up many more seats in the European Parliament than Mrs Thatcher would like.

So Mrs Thatcher can be expected to go flat out for real progress by the time the March summit takes place in Brussels. If enough can be done by then to persuade the Parliament to unfreeze the British rebate, she could believe herself to be home and dry. If the money remains in the freezer she will face a difficult dilemma.

Concluded
Mitterrand profile, page 8

Charge may wreck Singapore party

From David Watts, Singapore

Opposition politics in Singapore took another lurch towards oblivion yesterday when two key officials of the Workers' Party appeared in court.

The party's only MP, Mr J. B. "Ben" Jeyaretnam, and the Secretary-General, Mr Wong Hong Toy, were charged with making false statements in connexion with party accounts.

According to the Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Glenn Knight, cheques to the value of 2,600 Singapore dollars (about £860) were not recorded in the accounts when they were examined by the Official Receiver last year.

The party's financial affairs were put in the hands of the receiver after it failed to pay a fine of more than 17,000 Singapore dollars arising out of a lost libel case against an official of the then Singapore Radio and Television Service in 1974.

The outcome is crucial for the party and Mr Jeyaretnam has a legal ally of longstanding defending him, Mr John Mortimer, QC. Yesterday, a baleful Mr Jeyaretnam strongly refuted each charge as it was read, while Mr Mortimer, creator of the TV series, *Rumpole of the Bailey*, perused case files with raised eyebrows.

Should Mr Jeyaretnam lose, a fine of more than \$2,000 or jail term would force him out of politics through forfeiture of his seat at a time when there is talk of elections.

Although an election is not

expected until at least the middle of next year, a guilty finding would scarcely help the party.

It was an exchange on elections which prompted the latest battle between Mr Jeyaretnam and Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, in Parliament just before Christmas. Mr Jeyaretnam asked why the opposition party should not be represented on a committee which will redraw constituency boundaries.

Mr Lee, calling Mr Jeyaretnam a continuous purveyor of untruth, said the House extended him the sense of importance he himself felt he deserved. "But if he wants us to take him seriously as a person who represents the opposition, the alternative government, then he must comport himself as such."



Mr Mortimer: Rumpole's creator defends a friend.

Gandhi move to left isolates opposition

From Michael Hamlyn, Calcutta

Mrs Gandhi's Congress (I) Party took a smart step or two to the left yesterday in an effort to outflank and isolate the opposition parties. The shift may, however, be only one of language, since the actions of Mrs Gandhi's Government have tended to be pragmatic rather than theoretically based.

And as she said yesterday when introducing a series of resolutions at her party conference in Calcutta: "Democracy cannot exist without socialism, but I do not use the word in the way the Communist countries use it, or in the way some Western countries use it. I use it in the Indian sense, which is the kind of socialism, 'which is why we cannot exactly define what we mean by socialism when we are asked'."

None the less, the resolutions she introduced to the 77th plenary session of the Indian National Congress were vehement in their denunciation of the rightist tendencies of the opposition. In particular, they attacked the National Democratic Alliance combination of Lok Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party, which was called "totally reactionary in its social and political outlook."

Three resolutions were put forward yesterday, on politics, economics and international affairs. The political resolution emphasized the historical background to Congress's socialism, and urged a continuation along that road. The economic resolution declared: "Large industrial houses should be compelled to conform to national priorities", while the international one condemned the United States not only for its invasion of Grenada but also for its role in the arms race.

The Communist parties, however, came off fairly lightly in the resolutions. They were

discussed by a working party on Tuesday night in a five-hour session behind closed doors. After their introduction yesterday they were debated publicly by the "subject committee" and will be further discussed today at the full plenary session.

Spanish police seize two ETA supporters

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Bilbao police arrested a Basque politician for alleged justification of terrorism yesterday immediately after a news conference.

A warrant had been issued on Tuesday for the arrest of Señor Jon Idigoras after he told journalists in Madrid on Monday that ETA attacks on police and soldiers could be considered legitimate.

Señor Inaki Ruiz de Pineda was also arrested in Vitoria on Tuesday after making similar remarks.

The unwelcome Invincible leaves Sydney

Sydney (Reuters) - The British aircraft carrier Invincible left Sydney harbour yesterday after a controversial visit which provoked a diplomatic dispute about Australia's nuclear weapons policy.

The Invincible, seeking dry-dock facilities for repairs, was heading first for the Western Australian port of Perth, according to diplomatic sources. But no one said where she would go next for work on a damaged propeller shaft.

A Navy spokesman declined to comment on reports that repairs would be carried out in Singapore.

Kabul stages anti-US protest

Islamabad (AP) - The start of the fifth year of Soviet occupation of Afghanistan was marked by an anti-American demonstration in Kabul, according to Western diplomats here.

It was staged by the Soviet-backed Babrak Karmal regime on Christmas Day.

Soviet troops crossed into Afghanistan to back up the faltering communist regime there on December 27, 1979. There are now reported to be 105,000 Soviet troops bogged down in a military stalemate with Muslim insurgents.

Sources said an estimated 20,000 pro-regime demonstrators, looking "glum and unenthusiastic" because of being forced to march in severe cold, wound their way past the American Embassy. The regime-controlled media claimed there were 100,000 demonstrators chanting slogans against American involvement in Grenada and Central America.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry also held a news conference the same afternoon to "protest against US aggression in Afghanistan."

Tight security in Kabul, with most of the important intersections guarded by Soviet soldiers, did not allow a promised "spectacular action" on December 27. However, the mujahidin claim to have killed five Soviet soldiers

by blowing up their vehicle on December 23 in the Khairkhana district of Kabul.

They also attacked a Soviet-Afghan military convoy on the night of December 23-24 at Salang tunnel, the main overland route connecting Afghanistan with the Soviet Union, apparently leaving three Soviet soldiers dead and one tank destroyed. They also hit another convoy in the Khinjan Pass, which runs parallel to the Salang tunnel, on December 21. The resistance seized four lorries loaded with food.

In the town of Parwan in Parwan province, north-west of Kabul, eight Government troops guarding a school were killed in a resistance attack during the second week of December, the sources claim.

The insurgents, according to the diplomats, attacked the headquarters of the Afghan secret service (KHAD) in Jalalabad, in the first week of this month. They killed up to seven Army officers and wounded two. Two or three secret service officials were captured.

The city of Ghazni, south-west of Kabul, was heavily bombed by the Russians on December 17, killing 35 civilians. The bombing is understood to have been in retaliation to operations by rebels from that area.

Diplomats also reported that the head of the Government administration in the north-

eastern province of Laghman was killed by the resistance on December 12.

DELHI: Afghan officials recently admitted to visiting Western journalists in Kabul that there are 500 political prisoners in Afghanistan, according to a Western diplomatic source here (AP reports).

The report also said that Soviet officials told Moscow-based journalists that there were 600 Soviet political advisers in Afghanistan. The figures were given earlier this month to the seven reporters - three West Germans, two Italians, one Mexican and one American - who were believed to be the first group of Western journalists invited to Afghanistan since the Soviet invasion.

A report from Moscow said the journalists visited the Pul-i-Charkhi prison in Kabul and were told 250 political prisoners were held there.

Officials remarked that the number was low compared to the level of 17,000 during the rule of former President Hafizullah Amin, killed when the Russians ousted him in 1979 and installed the Karmal regime.

The Russians told the journalists they could "put down insurgents" in Afghanistan quickly because they had much experience "in the pacification of bandits" in places where conditions were far worse.

El Salvador land reform gets six-month extension

San Salvador (NYT) - The Constituent Assembly has approved a six-month extension of part of the land redistribution programme, giving about 60,000 peasants another chance to buy land.

The extension applies to the third phase of the three-part programme, which allows peasants to buy up to 17.5 acres they previously rented. American advisers estimate that 117,000 peasants have the right to buy such land, but only 57,000 have done so despite two previous extensions.

Many of them have been threatened by landowners, or their land is in areas where fighting is taking place.

This legislative victory for landless peasants comes after the assembly voted earlier this month to halve the amount of land available for the second phase of the redistribution programme. This phase, which has not yet been carried out, would transfer the ownership of middle-sized farms to peasant cooperatives. Most of them grow coffee, cotton or sugar, the main export crops.

The land available under the third phase is used by peasants for growing basic grains. Under the first phase the Government bought the largest farms, and is now in the process of turning them over to cooperatives.

The fight to extend the third phase was led by the Christian Democrats, supported by the Democratic Action Party and the conservative Authentic Salvadorean Institutional Party.

assassin, Rolando Galman, to shoot Aquino.

The military has insisted that Galman, whom they identified as a hired gunman and communist guerrilla leader, was the man who shot the former senator as he was being escorted from the aircraft that brought him back to the Philippines on August 21.

Manila (Reuters) - A Philippine Airlines technician came out of hiding yesterday to testify that Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader, was not shot by the killer named by the military.

Mr Ramon Balang, aged 28, a ground engineer, appeared at a special session of an inquiry into the Aquino assassination. He said he had been hiding for several days since learning that military investigators were looking for him.

Last weekend, another Manila airport maintenance man said in a US television interview that it would have been impossible for the alleged

assassin, Rolando Galman, to shoot Aquino.

The military has insisted that Galman, whom they identified as a hired gunman and communist guerrilla leader, was the man who shot the former senator as he was being escorted from the aircraft that brought him back to the Philippines on August 21.

Mr Balang told the hearing he saw Galman standing with soldiers assigned to secure the tarmac where Aquino's aircraft parked when it arrived from Taipei. "I do not think Galman had the opportunity to shoot Aquino," Mr Balang told the five-member commission.

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THE ARTS

Irving Wardle finds grounds for hope in London's theatrical year

A bright side to the balance sheet

My friend Trixie was in London over the autumn, on the trip from Romania she gets every three years. She is a translator. It is her boast that her version of *The Rainmaker* was the first Western piece to reach the East European stage after the war. She also prepared a white-face adaptation of *Siwwe Bansi* as *Dead for production* in a Romanian oil town where it evidently made as much sense as in its native Port Elizabeth. At home in Bucharest she keeps up with the latest British plays; but texts are no substitute for the real thing, and each time she returns to the London theatre it is as if the clock had stopped since her last visa ran out.

She set off enthusiastically on her round of the subsidised houses, the West End and the outlying repertoires; and, at the end of it all, she summed up her deepest impressions in one word: "sick".

That is a small word to cover a mass of work. On the other hand, if you have spent a year in a deteriorating climate, it may take an outsider to point out that the weather used to be better. Also, there is much to be said in favour of sickness. For a start, it means that things are booming. Nobody is going to get sick unless he has a market to feed. And, so far as the theatre is concerned, it is a guarantee that the artist is in contact with the public. Better a sick professional product than a laboriously hand-crafted egotrip. And, without the steady, humdrum process of business as usual, there would be no setting for anything extraordinary to happen.

Looking back on 1983, my chief sense is one of relief. For the first time since the mid-Seventies, there has been no immediate sense of approaching catastrophe. In London, some managements have come to the end of the road. The *Mermaid*, the *Shaw* and the *Roundhouse* are no longer in the same hands; but arguably they were due for a change of direction anyway. The RSC is sending up distress signals from the Barbican; but at least its plight is officially recognized, and its financial administration approved. Warning noises have been heard from the Arts Council, but so far there has been no major blood-letting, and corporate sponsorship continues to spread its safety net. Even the West End has

survived its VAT scalping and bounced back into life.

Shabby and antiquated as some commercial houses may be, at least they are all back in business; and the London Transport poster of the glittering, packed-out theatre street, which seemed such a sick joke last Christmas, now roughly corresponds to what you see in St Martin's Lane.

Halfway through Dennis Potter's recent play, *Sufficiently Carbohydrate*, a character quotes a chunk of Keats and then says that he prefers a good balance sheet. He could be speaking for the profession. After its precarious existence of the past decade, the theatre has understandably given top priority to its own survival. The demoralized old routine of eccentric hits and flops, stage-bound casting, rude box-office staff and complaints against punitive taxation is giving way to the new world of go-ahead marketing, computerized ticket and stand-by sales and packaged products each with its built-in television star. If there is any single pointer towards the future, it is Ed Mervish's *Old Vic* restored to full Victorian glamour while also running its Credit Card Hotline and subscription bargains along the lines of the discount store on which Mr Mervish based his Toronto fortunes.

Ingrained British snobbery has been proved wrong often enough in this department (witness the career of Roy Thomson) for us to have learnt to greet this kind of enterprise with more than a lordly sneer. Why should theatre not be sold like meat or Mediterranean holidays? As much damage has been done to it in the name of "art" and "culture" as has ever been done by the philistines.

It is only when you look at Mr Mervish's advance programme - a *Mikado* imported from Stratford, Ontario, revivals of *Seigneur Mistrav's Dance* and *The Boy Friend* - that the welcome freens on the lips. It is not that these are likely to be bad shows (*The Mikado*, when I saw it two years ago, was a knockout); but that they are there on the basis of their proved reputation and market value. Would Tim Rice's *Blondie* now be boring the pants off the musical public were it not for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Evita*?

Having raised the spectre of a theatrical hypermarket, I must acknowledge a few alternative initia-



Roger Heathcott and Alexandra Mathie (right) in *Daisy Pulls It Off*, triumphantly transferred from Southampton to the Globe; and the impassioned authority of John Kani in *Master Harold and the Boys* down in the bowels of the National Theatre

tives. For a start, there is Mr Mervish's *Old Vic* rival, Andrew Lloyd-Webber, who embarked on management with *Daisy Pulls It Off*, a piece by an unknown writer, triumphantly transferred to the Globe with only one change in its original Southampton company. There is the Theatre of Comedy, a consortium of leading comic actors, now controlling the Shaftesbury and the Ambassadors, and planning to embrace the whole comic repertoire from Shaw and basic British farce to new plays and off-Broadway imports. Also there is the Ploverwright-Anderson faction, a self-appointed National Theatre-in-Exile, which periodically re-ignites the classical torch in productions like the Haymarket *Cherry Orchard*.

As yet, none of these groups has got properly into its stride; but the signs so far suggest that they may develop into new power centres offering an alternative to the Mervish operation and setting the pace for commercial innovation.

No such signs of fresh initiative

have appeared in the subsidized sector, and it is here if anywhere that sickness has taken over. The RSC and the National Theatre have traversed the past 12 months like comfortably appointed Jumbos flying on automatic pilot. Their course is set, their public is loyal; and it seems that those in charge are tired of navigating the same old routes. The Stratford season (represented at its best by John Caird's melancholy *Twelfth Night*) was mainly the work of junior directors, with John Barton arriving at the last minute with a studio version of Calderon's *Life is a Dream*. Likewise, at the National Theatre, classic after routine classic was fired off by the boundlessly energetic Michael Bogdanov while Sir Peter Hall, like Trevor Nunn and Terry Hands, was looking round for new worlds to conquer.

Much to their credit, both the RSC and the National have resisted the temptation to bury new work in low-budget studio productions; and gave elaborate main-house showings to a succession of "public theatre" play-

wrights. But - with the exception of David Edgar's *Maydays* (I missed Ron Daniels's Barbican production, but found the text deeply impressive) - David Hare's *A Map of the World*, Christopher Hampton's *Tales from Hollywood* and (at the Royal Court) Howard Brenton's *Genius* all emerged as dutiful essays on important themes, rather than urgent works with the power to touch the public on an exposed nerve.

Studio productions are another matter, and it has been a continual shock throughout the year to exchange the razzle-dazzle of *Cyano de Bergerac* or *Jean Seberg* in the main house for impassioned authenticity of work like *Alcohol* by Fugard's *Master Harold and the Boys* or Nicholas Wright's *The Cows of the Country* down in the bowels of the same building. Apart from the fact that such productions have yielded some of the year's most dazzling acting - Anthony Sher's Tartuffe, Tony Haycraft's tongue-tied client in *Glengarry Glen Ross* - the big-house studios link up with the fringe as a

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to nominate any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topkapi* *Mariy's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to spring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Clear* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep* - both held over from 1982.

Television

Addled brains

The Case of the Frightened Lady, adapted from Edgar Wallace by Victor Pemberton, on BBC2 last night, might just as aptly have been called "The Case of the Mad Lord", or "The Thick-Headed Policemen". The whole Lebanon household, round which it centred, were as nutty as fruitcakes and anyone could have knocked off the chauffeur and the sinister family doctor, even the policemen who were stupid enough to have run them down on their way in.

It was a dated kind of thing and such humour as was attempted fell heavy as lead. By the time it was revealed that it was the young Lord Lebanon who was reducing the family overheads with a tangerine cloth, it did not seem to matter a lot. He blew his addled brains out as his dominating man, dominantly played by Virginia McKenna - though I knew she was nice really - walked towards him to take away his toy and pop him back in the padded cell where Daddy had expired.

Tim Woodward was the loony lord and Elizabeth Carver his bride-to-be and the frightened lady. Some of the fear may have been due to the script.

Channel 4 proffered a breath of fresh air, Melvyn Bragg beginning his saga on *Land of the Lakes* which continues tonight and tomorrow night - a rock-buster in fact. There he was treading his native Cumbrian fells, which can be bracing as well as beautiful.

I like Mr Bragg. He does the best arts programme and always seems a diffident, unassuming kind of chap with a healthy, unshaken curiosity. Whatever he looked strangely ill at ease, like a man about to greet a prospective buyer of his house knowing all the time that the boiler was about to burst.

It became apparent that he was burdened by time as, I suspect, those who travel with him are likely to be. He began 600 million years back and raced forward through various geological developments until he said, I thought with relief, "we are down to a million years now".

Actually, and fortunately, we got closer than that to talk to stonewallers and farmers, and heard from a couple of professors and the climber Chris Bonington. All, like Mr Bragg, were keen on the Lake District, which won the hearts of Coleridge, Constable, Southey, Wordsworth, Turner and De Quincey and still captures 14 million visitors a year. Mr Bragg is quite right to be proud of it: rather privileged, too, to have three hours to demonstrate it.

Dennis Hackett

● Sir John Pritchard is to remain as chief conductor at the Cologne Opera until 1991. His new contract was signed just before Christmas.

Dance in the United States

Season of change-and promise

Dance in America is in a period of change - in many ways, radical change. The current season has, so far, been sluggish, but many American companies are apparently in transitional phases.

The Joffrey Ballet is but one example. After years of being based in New York, it has now become what is fashionably referred to as bi-coastal, and is to be shared by New York and Los Angeles. In time it seems - if things work out as expected - the company will become more and more West Coast oriented, and will in time move its school and administration away from New York to the other side of the country.

Nowadays the company only appears for a month in New York each year - in its heyday it danced two six-week seasons - and this winter perhaps it did seem slightly different, perhaps trendier, in keeping with its new Hollywood-style image. Whatever the reason the dancing - and the company is today a young, strong classic ensemble - proved markedly more rewarding than the new ballets.

Another company probably dancing at least technically, better than ever is the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary in a New York season at the City Center and is strongly rumoured to make its first appearance at the Metropolitan Opera House next summer.

A change of location or a silver jubilee are interesting rites of passage, but two of America's companies, the two leading classic troupes, New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre, are facing changes that are certainly potentially traumatic. In Britain the Royal Ballet, Ballet Rambert and even the younger London Festival Ballet have all undergone changes of directorship. Norman Morrice, for example, is the fourth director of the Royal Ballet.

In the United States most dance companies, both classic and modern, have until very recently had first-generation leadership. Two modern-dance companies, the Jose Limon troupe and Joyce Trisler's Dancecompany, were the first to continue under new artistic management. Now these problems are facing Ballet Theatre and City Ballet.

Although strictly speaking Lucia Chase and Oliver Smith did not found Ballet Theatre - that was overseen by a remarkable young visionary, the late Richard Pleasant - they were the ones to place their imprint on the company; and, when they were replaced by Mikhail Baryshnikov three years ago, there were many problems. These came to a head during the past summer, culminating in a financial crisis, with Mr Baryshnikov offering his resignation, only for him to be persuaded by

the company's board of directors to stay on at least until the end of the current season.

How his problems are being resolved will become more apparent after his season at Washington's Kennedy Center, where it is premiering a new work by Twyla Tharp, and a lavish new production of *Cinderella*.

Meanwhile the transition, or the changing of the guard, at City Ballet appears to be going far more smoothly. Even before George Balanchine's death this summer, preparations had been made for the artistic succession. It was agreed that Peter Martins and Jerome Robbins should be joint ballet-masters-in-chief, with Mr Martins in prime charge of the day-to-day running of the company, assisted by the ballet staff led by John Taras, and Mr Robbins as chief choreographer. Lincoln Kirstein remains as general director.

When the company appeared at Covent Garden in August London was, in effect, what could be thought of as the company's fourth phase. The first phase began on January 2, 1934, when Balanchine, Kirstein and Vladimir Dimitrieff opened the School of American Ballet at 637 Madison Avenue in New York City. That first phase lasted throughout the formative years of New York City Ballet, long before it actually took on the name of City Ballet, and acquired the limited patronage of the city, with a home at City Center.

Phase two began on July 10, 1950, when City Ballet opened a six-week season at Covent Garden. It was the first time the company had been overseas, it was the longest continuous season it had ever given, and it marked the emergence of the troupe as a major international force. From then on progress was rapid.

Phase three is easily documented - it began with the opening of the New York State Theater at Lincoln Center in April 1964, and the consequent move of City Ballet from City Center to Lincoln Center, a move in some ways analogous to that of the Sadler's Wells Ballet in 1946, when it moved to Covent Garden. City Ballet, also, had acquired a new home of operatic dimensions.

This third phase ran through last season, with the death of Balanchine. It was a phase that saw many new works, special festivals devoted to Stravinsky, Ravel and Tchaikovsky, a permanent repertoire established by Balanchine and his associate, Jerome Robbins, playing Ivanov to his Petipa, and the development of a company of more than 100 dancers.

Even before Balanchine died - his illness was a fairly long one - arrangements were being made for the company's continuance, and the question of

the artistic succession was decided. Even by the end of last season - immediately after Balanchine's death and before the European tour - certain changes could be dimly discerned. But it was the tour that helped set the new pattern, and Covent Garden, for the second time in the company's history, marked a decisive turning-point.

The company, like the others, is probably now dancing better than it has ever danced before. It is a big company - perhaps too big, because some of the older dancers rarely get on stage, as the emphasis moves towards the younger generation. So far there has not been a new work - in January it seems there may be a new, large-scale ballet by Martins to Schubert music, but so far the season has been one of entrenchment.

The new management is committed to restore a number of Balanchine ballets that have been absent from the repertoire for a few years. A start has been made already, with *Jewels* (given a new, but still pastie, setting) and *Raymonda Variations*. There is talk of a Balanchine festival in the summer - although how anyone would notice the difference between the two seasons is difficult to imagine, for City Ballet is always a Balanchine festival.

The style of dancing - very slightly - looks as if it is changing. There was always a disparity, which many people pretended not to notice, between Balanchine's school and his company, and their way of dancing. In the company Balanchine called for a freer, less regimented style; he did not like rigidly straight lines, and felt that absolute precision took something away from dance's humanity. Sometimes this could be misunderstood, with results that were occasionally floppy. In the future I suspect that the company - while never trying to emulate the Rockettes of Radio City Music Hall - will perform with a touch more cohesion.

Of course, eventually, the big change will be in repertoire. Both Robbins and Martins have indicated that they have no wish to be curators of a museum, and that City Ballet must pursue the actively creative course that has characterized its past.

Partly with this role in mind, and his new responsibilities, Martins at the age of 37 has retired from dancing. The first part of the present season has been a series of farewell appearances, culminating in his final appearance at the 1,000th performance of Balanchine's production of *The Nutcracker*. Also to mark the occasion - and following in Balanchine's own footsteps - Robbins made his debut as Dr Drosselmeyer.

Clive Barnes

Babes in the Wood

New End

It was a dejected group of villagers who crept out from behind two painted screens to celebrate Nottingham's Goose Fair by having their faces ground anew by the Sheriff and their lines obliterated by a houseful of wailing children.

But any impulse to side with the company against Tuesday's matinee audience was extinguished by the first sight of an American Robin Hood (Erin Donovan) accosting Maid Marian as a highwayman and then bursting into a mercilessly prolonged love song as soon as he had a good look at her.

You can deduce some of the things that are wrong with Stewart Permut's mini-pano from that little scene. It mixes up story-telling with burlesque, it is full of nervous asides for the grown-ups, and Trevor T. Smith's songs go on and on long after they have made their point.

As far as the story goes, we find Robin heroically setting off to save the babes and leaving his search party in the wrong direction. Meanwhile, two wind-up rabbits have popped up through one of Camilla Ashforth's cardboard knolls to bestrew the victims with two or three leaves while, back at the castle, the Sheriff is gleefully rubbing his hands at the

murderous approach of midnight as the clock on his mantelpiece is pointing to ten minutes to six. Not much suspense there, you may think, and you would be right.

Zealous to give the kids a good laugh, Mr Permut goes to town on the Dame routines, manfully shouldered by David Foxe, a fearless comedian who drives headlong into any suicidal road-block of cliché and mirthless gags, confident of emerging unscathed on the other side if he keeps his foot down. Mr Foxe gives us a school theme based on the old chestnut of the fiver versus the piece of chalk, a kitchen scene where he stirs nuts and dates (from tool box and calendar)

into his cake mixture and an awkward scene with a homosexual puncheon. "It's meant to be funny", said my nine-year-old, "so it 'sn't funny".

She was not referring to Richard Howard and Chuck Julian, two cowardly assassins selected from the Yellow Pages, who do develop a strong comic partnership, particularly where they reduce each other to tears in a duel with soft hats over the murder weapon. Otherwise it fills me with despair that a small community house, free from the pressures of the West End, should be offering children this kind of trash.

Irving Wardle

Galleries

Sensational view of sensuality

Hayez, 1791-1882
Palazzo Reale and
Accademia di Brera,
Milan

Francesco Hayez is virtually unknown in this country, although he was modestly represented in the Council of Europe *Age of Neo-Classicism* exhibition in London in 1972. In fact, Italian painting of the nineteenth century is largely uncharted territory and many of the paintings in this revelatory exhibition (until February 27) have been either rescued from museum storerooms or winked out of private collections by its indefatigable organisers, Maria Cristina Gossoli and Fernando Mazzocca.

Hayez was born in Venice in 1791; his father came from Valenciennes and his mother from Murano. His precocity is indicated by the fact that at the age of seven he entered the studio of Francesco Maggiorani, son of Domenico, who had been a pupil of Piazzetta. In 1805 he won first prize at the Accademia in Venice for drawing from the nude and four years later, with the encouragement of Count Leopoldo Cicognara, he entered for and won a scholarship to Rome, where he was immediately accepted as a pupil by Antonio Canova, the foremost sculptor of the age and the embodiment of triumphant Neoclassicism. Having been made Marchese d'Ischia by the Pope, Canova converted the pension attached to the title into an annual prize for a study from the nude, to be awarded by the Accademia di San Luca; the theme for the year 1815 was a *Victorious Athlete* and Hayez won with his entry, which still belongs to the academy and is exhibited at Milan. It is worth recalling that one of the unsuccessful competitors was Ingres.

The direct influence of Canova is evident in all the early works of Hayez, such as

the extraordinary *Shipwrecked Ajax* (Brescia, private collection), in which the naked hero struggles with a mountainous wave, and the intensely sensual *Penitent Magdalen in the Desert* (1825; Milan, private collection), the inspiration for which, now in the Museo di Sant'Agostino, is exhibited alongside. By this time Hayez had settled in Milan where he was to spend the rest of his life, attached to the Accademia di Brera, where he taught for 60 years. In 1820 he had produced the first Romantic history picture in Italian art, depicting *Pietro Rossi* (Milan, private collection), an obscure medieval subject which had nevertheless strong political overtones for contemporaries and was immediately acquired by the Marchese Giorgio Pallavicino Trivulzio, an aristocrat of pronounced liberal views.

A similarly "political" work, *The Oath of the Lampugnani* (1826-29; Brera) was commissioned by the Contessa Teresa Stampa Borri, who was herself portrayed twice by Hayez, in a *Family Group* (1822-23; Brera) and again 15 years later, when she had become the second wife of the writer Alessandro Manzoni, whose portrait is also exhibited (both Brera). The artist's portraits are among his most impressive productions which, unlike his history pictures, have never fallen completely out of fashion. One of the most striking is the *Principessa di San'Anna* (1840-44; Naples, Museo di San Martino), the singularly plain daughter of an English admiral whose lugubrious face, framed by dangling corkscrews of hair, emerges from a dazzling concoction of pale grey watered silk and lace, set against a red plush armchair. The singer *Matilde Jova Branca* (1851; Milan, Civica Galleria d'Arte Moderna) wears her ringlets with a difference, while the *Principessa Cristina de Belgioioso Trivulzio* (1830-31; Florence, private collection),

combines aristocratic elegance with an almost provocative sensuality.

It was the blatant sensuality of his *Last Kiss of Romeo and Juliet* (1823; Trezzano, Villa Carlotta) that offended a contemporary German critic, who described Romeo as having the physique of a porter and considered Juliet's slippers a solecism in her "modernity" and its fidelity to the spirit of Shakespeare. Nevertheless, ten years later the artist produced a smaller version (Milan, private collection) in which the lovers are not actually kissing.

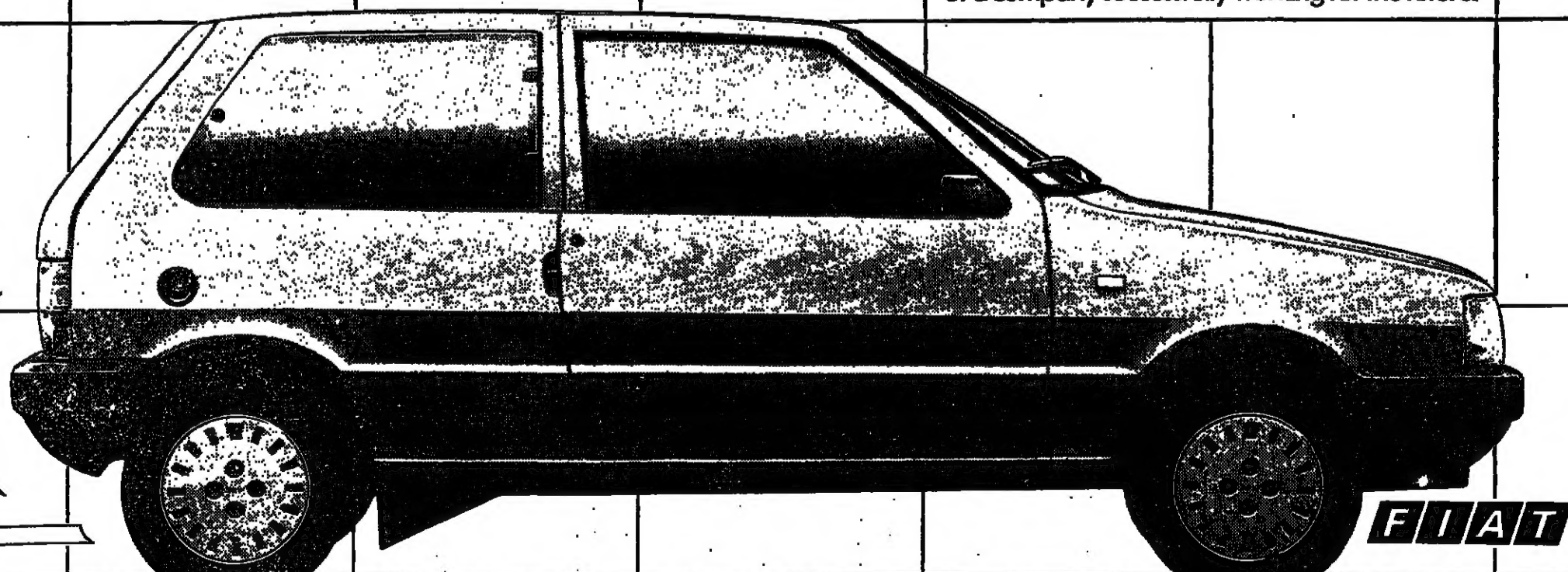
Most of the historical paintings and the portraits are hung in the Sala delle Caricature of the Palazzo Reale, which was partly destroyed by bombing in 1943 and, since it was once covered by a ceiling painting by Hayez celebrating the rule of the Emperor Ferdinand I of Austria, is sadly appropriate. Equally so, but more happily in view of Hayez's long association with the Brera, is the collection there of his "academic" paintings. Mostly of religious subjects, the often highly realistic treatment can be disconcerting, although at its finest, in *Jacob and Esau* (1844; Brescia, Civica Pinacoteca Tosio Martinengo), it works wonderfully.

In the last section of the exhibition, the painter's sense of his own impending death combines with his disillusionment with contemporary politics to produce a series of melancholic females who rarely succeed in looking sultry. His final gesture is, however, something of a *coup de théâtre*, using Delacroix's famous picture (now in the Wallace Collection) as his point of departure, he depicts *The Last Moments of the doge Marin Faliero*, giving his own features to the eponymous victim. It is an ambiguous farewell to what to outsiders must have seemed a brilliantly successful career.

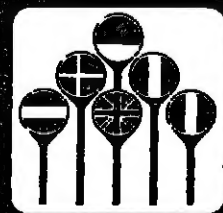
Jeffery Daniels

MANY TOOK PART. UNO TOOK FIRST.

This is not a normal advertisement in which a car manufacturer boasts about his products. A jury of 53 motoring journalists from 16 European countries, including 7 journalists from Britain, have just elected the Fiat Uno "Car of the Year 1984." The criteria on which the jury based its decision were: quality of design, comfort, safety, handling and road-holding, performance, practicality and sheer driving pleasure. Uno with its unique combination of merits surpassed all of the fourteen other new cars launched in Europe during 1983. The Car of the Year award is Europe's highest accolade; an important achievement for Uno and for Fiat, and recognition for the commitment of a company successfully working for the future.



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By the left, slow march

The Times profile François Mitterrand

When François Mitterrand was elected President of France on May 10, 1981 he stood at a rare pinnacle of achievement. He had brought to its culmination a political career which began in 1945 when he was the youngest of de Gaulle's ministers. He had also changed the whole political landscape of France. He had rebuilt the Socialist party from ruins (it took only 6 per cent of the vote in 1969) to become by far the largest party in France, with complete state power within its grasp. For the first six months of 1984 the state that he heads assumes the presidency of the EEC.

The scale of his achievement is still the dominating fact of Mitterrand's presidency. He grasped earlier than anyone else the way in which the directly elective presidency would produce a powerful coal-tail effect for those who ran well in it.

He also grasped that the key to a good socialist showing was an alliance with the (then far stronger) French communists. He stuck to this strategy, first put into effect in 1965, through thick and thin, despite the firm conventional wisdom that it could lead only to defeat. Instead Mitterrand first polarized French politics around the left alliance; then pulled enough centrist voters towards the socialists to allow them to overtake the communists before humbling them. The way in which Mitterrand simply out-thought his opponents and was willing to work his way through 16 years in the wilderness to win, brought forth from the right the admiring recognition of his almost Gaullian stature.

This long march towards power also had marked effects on Mitterrand's political personality. The French expect a certain gravitas of those who would be president, a dignity and hauteur. Mitterrand took to this like a duck to water, for he is a naturally reserved man. He has few really close personal confidants and spends more of his time thinking and writing than he does talking - indeed, he hopes to be chiefly remembered as a writer.

There were other reasons for this reserve, too. As the socialists overtook the communists the latter railed furiously and often personally against Mitterrand. He was only too aware that they were looking for excuses to break off the left alliance and was determined not to offer them any. So, time and again, he just turned the other cheek and found great use for the ambivalent silence and the delphic utterance. Finally, the government-controlled radio and television, and much of the press, were outrageously partisan in their attempts to discredit him. A firm insistence on privacy was often his best defence. Even so, to maintain a cool and level head while standing up to such a barrage required an elephantine stamina and patience.

One result was that, even after his 16-year campaign, many Frenchmen were surprisingly unsure what sort of man they had elected. The new presidential style was underlain by a wish to restate the old republican virtues, and to insist on the self-confident legitimacy of the new regime. Moreover, Mitterrand immediately made public a doctor's report on his own health and a full statement of his

personal finances: the new president would be seen to be subject to the law. At the same time he brusquely waved aside the national cult which had insisted that de Gaulle's old office in the Elysée should be preserved as a sort of national shrine; on his first day Mitterrand moved into this holy of holies and has worked in it since. He refused though to live in the regal splendour of the Elysée, preferring to commute to work from his small Paris flat. But he remained an austere figure, and he dominated his government utterly. (When ministers visit him at his country retreat in Nièvre they have, therefore, to fall into crocodile file behind Mitterrand on the long country walks that he, as an almost rhapsodic nature lover, is much given to.)

His greatest weakness was relative ignorance of economics. In particular, he failed to realize just how tightly the French economy is constrained within the EEC and the European Monetary System.

In the 1970s attempts at economic expansion had to be cut short as each time they produced a flood of German imports, a plunging trade balance, recurrent devaluations of the franc against the Deutschmark. And Giscard's decision to join the EMS meant the franc could no longer float down and EMS consent was required for any devaluation at all. Worse still, in spite of its eight separate devaluations since 1960, the franc was by 1981 more overvalued than ever.

Mitterrand ought to have devalued steeply and at once - and perhaps quit the EMS - whatever else he was going to do. If, in addition, France was going to try an expansionist spurt, that devaluation would have to be accompanied either by protectionist measures or by cutting internal consumption.

It is doubtful if Mitterrand grasped how stark his choices were in 1981. At all events, such considerations were brushed aside. The franc was defended at its old value. By October 1981 sweeping nationalization had produced a forced devaluation of 8.8 per cent against the Deutschmark - universally agreed to be insufficient.

Unabashed, Mitterrand pressed ahead with an avalanche of legislation: abolition of the death penalty, university reform, the extension of industrial democracy, leasehold reform, reform even of the monumental Code Napoleon, and, not least, abolition of military tribunals. Public opinion was staggered at the sheer size and ambition of what was to be attempted. Not a few had quietly assumed that Mitterrand was too much the old fox to do literally what he had promised. If precisely for that reason Mitterrand was determined to show that he was a man of his word.

This programme ran into trouble from a number of directions. The Constitutional Council (packed with old right-wing politicians) declared several measures unconstitutional and even found the (by no means ungenerous) nationalization terms not generous enough. Despite the left's fury, Mitterrand largely increased the terms.



The senate (where the right has a permanent majority) also awoke from its slumber and fought several reforms to a standstill. In parliament the right showed an unmatched skill and aggression as it fought the new measures line by line. Despite his firm promises not to do so Mitterrand was soon compelled to use the various "undemocratic" procedures allowed to the president to cut short the debates.

In the face of such obstacles the left might have benefited from public sympathy had it not made its own position far worse. Too many ministers lacked managerial or administrative experience. The feuding between factions never really stopped and sometimes ministers slanged one another in public. The prime minister, Mauroy, was a perennially stumbling figure, lacking any real authority.

Mitterrand's own responsibility in all this was considerable. He undermined the government's authority by his habit of meeting an inner group of party henchmen for confidential breakfasts at which key business was discussed in the absence of the premier and finance minister. Even the inner party group could fear the influence of Mitterrand's private Elysée advisers. Mauroy's own authority was so weak that it was noticeable that crises blew up whenever Mitterrand was out of the country - Mauroy alone could not resolve them. Within the government Mitterrand tolerated incompetence for too long. The Minister for Overseas France resigned in fury when he found the African leaders were, as in the bad old days, making their deals direct with shadowy figures in the Elysée - part of

the old masonic network of which Mitterrand himself is a leading member.

By May 1982 the chickens had come home to roost. A second (10 per cent) devaluation was announced along with a first dose of economic austerity. This was clearly inadequate to deal with the soaring trade deficit - which, by January 1983, was running at a 115 billion franc annual rate. Something clearly had to be done.

It wasn't. Instead, with its eyes on the March municipal elections the government swore that all was well and that no further "rigour" would be necessary. The minute the elections were over the government admitted the crisis and a major shake-up took place. The franc was devalued for a third time.

There is no disguising the fact that the government has been badly blown off course. In good part it has deserved its unpopularity through its own muddles and lack of firm, competent authority. But most of all its unpopularity is due to the fact that bourgeois France has never really accepted the legitimacy of a truly alternative regime. It is still far from clear that France can be governed against its bourgeoisie.

In July 1983 Mitterrand gave a perhaps over-frank interview where he declared that he "made a mistake in not devaluing in May 1981. You tell me Blum made the same mistake as me (during the 1930s Popular Front), but for him it was more excusable. Only Robert (a Gaullist maverick) encouraged me in that direction. Confusedly, I felt he was right, but

Mauroy and Delors persuaded me against it and Rocard said nothing. From spring 1982 on I wanted policies of rigour... Everybody foretold a return to growth in 1983 and to be honest I lacked the expertise to say they were wrong... It's true, we dreamt a little in 1981 and underestimated the length of the international crisis, just as I overestimated the goodwill of the Americans. I no longer expect anything of Reagan."

Mitterrand has never been one to be so frank by accident. Clearly he had been reassessing the left's record in somewhat better mood. He was not pleased by the way in which he, with his reputation for long-term strategic thinking, had ended up with hand-to-mouth policies. Moreover he was boxed in. He had tried to shelter behind Mauroy, letting him take the brunt of unpopularity.

Not only had this not worked, but the communists, who got on well with Mauroy, were insisting that no other premier would be acceptable to them. Delors, the great talisman of business confidence, and Rocard, the most popular man in the government, were regarded as unsackable. Mitterrand wanted more room for manoeuvre. It was no accident that his interview roundly criticized all three of these "indispensable" men. Or that the only minister singled out for praise, Jobert, had left the government some time before. The time had come, Mitterrand was signalling, for a powerful and Gaullist reassertion of presidential authority.

This is indeed what we have seen, with a strikingly Gaullist series of foreign policy initiatives in Chad, Lebanon and the EEC.

All these initiatives show an almost regal assertion of presidential power. The right has found itself wrong-footed and the president's popularity has recovered strongly in the polls. Clearly, Mitterrand has decided that he, and he alone, can now save the left.

Mitterrand still has two trumps. First, the right is split and it looks as though it will be forced, *faute de mieux*, to rally behind Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader. Chirac is so widely distrusted and feared that many centrist Frenchmen may find it hard to choose him, however much they dislike Mitterrand.

Secondly, Mitterrand has time. There is a socialist majority in parliament until June 1986 and he remains president until May 1988. He has now enacted almost the whole of his programme so there is little left for parliament to do.

Everything now depends on Mitterrand himself. More than ever he is the heart of the entire experiment. At times in the past two years he has shown flashes of the old Fourth Republic wheeler-dealer that many think he still is: a fatal trait. What the government needs now more than anything is that he provide a firm, tough, still centre, that he show all the patience and calmness under fire that he displayed in his 16-year march towards power. It is a tall order of an old man; and even that may not be enough. But the French have already seen - in de Gaulle - that it is a great mistake to underestimate the determination, stamina and strategic subtlety of a leader. The game is far from over.

R W Johnson

The author, a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, published *The Long March of the French Left* in 1981.

moreover...
Miles Kingston

Thanks for the memory

There must be millions of my younger readers who have received word processors in their stockings for Christmas and now haven't the faintest idea what to do with them, except, perhaps, start a free giveaway comic in Stockport. The right answer is, of course, to mass produce your thank-you letters now.

As an incentive I have devised five all-purpose thank you letters which you can simply feed into your word processor and then produce as many copies as you like.

Dear Granny,
Thank you for the super book token. It was super. I went to the bookshop to get a super book with it, but the bookshop was still closed for Christmas. So I swapped my book token with John for the toy guitar you gave him, which he did not want. I did not want it either, but I knew Simon wanted one. So I sold it to him for three pounds. Which I used to buy an ambulance and two stretchers off Rosemary, plus two blood-stained bandages, so you can see it was a super book token.

Dear Uncle Charlie,
Thanks for the super calculator. This is one of the great new ones that you can plug into telephones and things, so that you can monitor all incoming and outgoing calls to prevent them being too expensive, etc. Dad said jokingly, "Any chance you can plug into my bank and get my overdraft wiped out?" Well, it took a bit of working out but eventually I discovered that I could work this all right and Dad now has no overdraft in the bank. What he also now has, thanks to your calculator, is £3 million in the bank.

Your loving nephew
Dear Auntie,
Thanks for the diary. It was just what I wanted. Mummy gave me a diary too, so did John and Uncle Charlie and someone whose name I couldn't read and somebody else whose label fell off before Christmas. I am now thinking of becoming a diary collector. All the diaries are different. At least the outside covers are different with titles like Schoolgirls' Diary, Stamp Collectors' Diary, Train Spotters' Diary, and Princess Di's Diary, but all the insides are the same. Isn't that interesting?

Love,
Dear Uncle Ned,
How are things in New Zealand? Great to hear from you. We had a lovely Christmas. Nobody was sick very much. Mum and Dad had a big fight on Boxing Day but it was hard to tell who won. Uncle Percy was here on Christmas Day and got drunk. He woke up during the Queen's broadcast and said loudly: "I know that woman! Must be an old girlfriend of mine!" And went to sleep again, also loudly. Cousin Kathleen came all the way from London and we all gave her gloves again. PS Thanks for your present. What is it? Some of us say it is for strangling sleep with in New Zealand.

Love,
Dear Uncle Tom,
You remember last year you gave me a machinegun which was very noisy? And dad got so cross that he broke it on Boxing Day? And you weren't very sympathetic? But you said I should have had it insured? And I didn't know what insurance was? So you had to explain it to me?

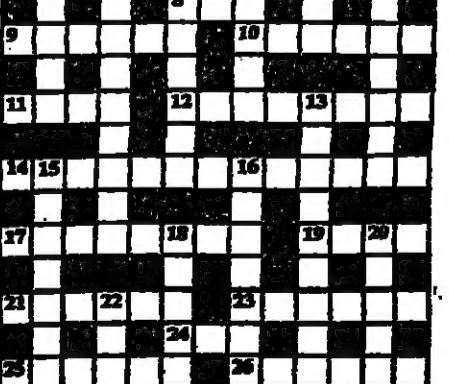
Well, this year I took out insurance on all my Christmas presents in advance for a premium of £5. From one of those fast-talking insurance brokers who persuaded me to take out fire, theft, etc. while I was at it. For a two-week period for only an extra £10. Anyway to cut a long story short, the candles on the Christmas tree burnt the tree yesterday and the tree burnt the house down and I had the house insured so I am now richer by £80,000 odd. Unfortunately, Dad did not have the house insured.

PS: I am sorry you didn't send me a present this year. Luckily I insured against this.

Love,

Tomorrow: How to mass-produce postage stamps with your new printing set.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 234)



- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Publication's appearance (6) | 2 Express opinion (5) |
| 3 Connect (6) | 3 Actor's speech (9) |
| 4 Flunder (3) | 4 Athlete's guide (7) |
| 5 Yellow-brown pigment (6) | 5 Make ashamed (5) |
| 6 Cunning (6) | 6 High explosive (1,1,1) |
| 7 Perceive by touch (4) | 7 Fast warship (7) |
| 8 Institution (8) | 8 General pardon (7) |
| 9 Destroyer (8) | 9 Without cause (5) |
| 10 Irregular tribunal (8,5) | 10 Red clubs (5) |
| 11 Absence of faith (8) | 11 Red cheek powder (5) |
| 12 Distinctive air (4) | 12 Utilise (3) |
| 13 Not genuine (6) | |
| 14 Hated (6) | |
| 15 Convent sister (3) | |
| 16 French secondary schools (6) | |
| 17 Derv (6) | |

SOLUTION TO No 233
ACROSS: 1 Dictum 4 Felony 7 Camp 8 Decimate 9 Landmass 12 Fly 15 Editor 16 Venus 17 Fan 19 Sabotage 24 Enclosures 25 Stew 26 Closet 27 Source
DOWN: 1 Duce 2 Companion 3 Model 4 Focus 5 Lump 6 Natal 10 Dross 11 Sweet 12 Freighter 13 Yard 14 Serf 18 Annel 20 Asset 21 Oasis 22 Alias 23 Twee

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Rising with a new leader

Twice recently, leading political journalists have discounted the rise in the polls for the Labour Party since the "unity" conference early in October, in one instance saying "The Party has not risen nearly as much as might have been expected in the opinion polls after the election of a young and amiable new leader". In fact, there has been a remarkable and very sharp rise which occurred almost precisely on the occasion of Mr. Kinnock's election to the Labour leadership. In the June election, the Conservatives received 44 per cent of the vote, Labour 28 per cent and the Alliance 26 per cent. In nine public opinion polls taken between then and the end of September by Gallup, MORI, Marplan and NOP, the support averaged as follows: 44.5 per cent supported the Conservatives, 27.8 per cent Labour and 26.3 per cent the Alliance. The opinion polls



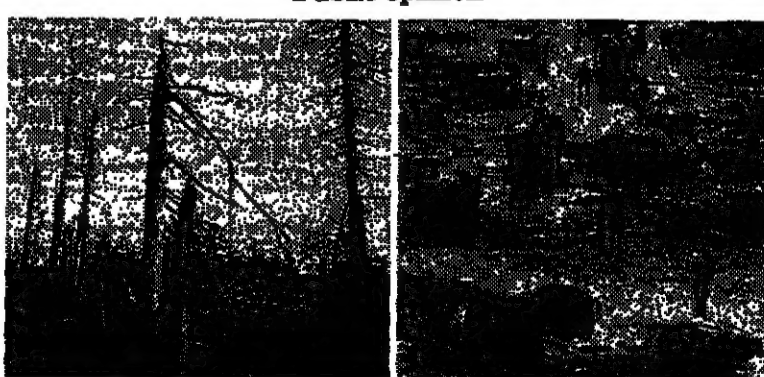
varied by no more than two or three percentage points among themselves. Sixteen polls were taken by these organizations (plus Harris) between October 3 and December 16. These averaged: 42 per cent Conservative (down 2 per cent), 37 per cent Labour (up nine) and 20 per cent Alliance (down six). This has been a stable and consistent finding over the past three months. The "Kinnock Factor"?

Sample example

The General Housing Survey conducted by the Government's Statistical Service was described as "statistically worthless" by Auberon Waugh in a recent issue of *The Spectator* because the sample "involved only a few more

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research
Public opinion



Fatal fallout: the real effect of acid rain and right, the Hollywood vision of *The Day After* the bomb has fallen

than 3,000 women or one-seventieth of one per cent of women over 16". Mr. Waugh surely knows that he need take but a sip to see that the wine is sour, whether it comes from a bottle, a magnum or a jeroboam.

Many people, including Mr. Waugh, confuse the size of a sample with the percentage sampled. So long as a sample is large enough to be statistically reliable (say, 1,000 adults), the statistical reliability is the same (plus or minus 3 per cent) no matter if that sample is drawn from among 40 million British adults, 3 million adults in Ireland or 160 million adults in America.

Un-Common TV

We live in a democratic society - or do we? You would think that MPs would be responsive to public opinion, at least on matters of communication if not in terms of substantive matters such as the death penalty and local government. Yet Austin Mitchell seems to be making little progress in getting the Commons to agree to the televising of Parliament even in a limited and carefully controlled way. A recent MORI poll for the *Sunday Times* shows that by more than two-to-one public opinion is in favour of seeing

the House of Commons in action on their televisions. Results of the poll (taken in early December) revealed that 63 per cent of voters say that televising the Commons' proceedings would be a good thing, 29 per cent say a bad thing and 8 per cent "don't know". This is one occasion when MPs should pay close attention to public opinion.

Ecological concern

The Europeans and their Environment is the latest report from the Commission for the European Communities' study carried out in the 10 EEC countries. The data for the UK show that while few people complain about such things as drinking water purity (9 per cent), noise (12 per cent), lack of access to open space and countryside (12 per cent), loss of good farmland (17 per cent) and deterioration of the landscape (21 per cent), most people are worried or concerned about other environmental issues. For instance, three out of four are worried or concerned a "great deal" or "fair amount" about the extinction of certain species of plant and animal and the depletion of the world's forest resources (each 73 per cent) and two-thirds (64 per cent) say they are concerned about water pollution and a majority (58 per cent) are concerned about air pollution.

Kansas canvass

Eighty per cent of the British public believes that ITV was right to show the film *"The Day After"* on television and only 9 per cent felt it was "not right". It was interesting to see that, among those who watched the film only 6 per cent felt that ITV were wrong to show the film while twice as many, 12 per cent, of those who didn't watch it took this view. Nearly 21 per cent of those who saw it thought it was not nearly as bad as reality would be following a nuclear attack. Sixty-one per cent thought that suffering would be worse, 68 per cent thought that health and welfare would be worse and 63 per cent thought that public order would be worse than that portrayed in the film. According to MORI research for the IBA and ITN.

Big Brother watch

Orwell's 1984, are increasingly concerned about threats to privacy. One third (31 per cent) of those polled said they were "very concerned" in 1978. This has risen to nearly half (48 per cent) in 1983. One-third mistrust the Internal Revenue Service and nearly four in 10 mistrust the FBI. An overwhelming 86 per cent of the American public thought it was possible that "a government in Washington will use confidential information to intimidate individuals or groups if it feels its enemies" and 70 per cent said it was "likely". However nearly a quarter of congressmen interviewed, one-third of the business executives and more than half (56 per cent) of the editors interviewed thought it was "unlikely".

Robert Worcester

The author is chairman of MORI. Details of fieldwork, dates and sample sizes are reported in *British Public Opinion Newsletter*, published by the firm.

BOOKS

Paperbacks: Philip Howard, our Literary Editor, makes his year's choice

For those who like their nonsense nonsensical

Picking the paperbacks of the year is like standing under Niagara with a bucket trying to catch salmon. And we do realize, don't we, boys and girls, that the selection is subjective, erratic and pig-headed. One man's meat is another man's poison. On a different day, in a different mood, the selection would be different. But here are some of the paperbacks that I should spend my Christmas book-tokens on.

On the shelf of light fiction for a good understanding read there was *Vintage Stuff* by Tom Sharpe, paperbacked for the first time, (£1.75). It is not quite *Vintage* Sharpe (I still like *Will and the South African* best). But it is characteristically rude, anarchic and funny.

Send-up of all those clubland heroes by Dornford Yates and Sapper rescuing heroines around Europe in *Vintage*

Bentleys. For those who prefer to take such nonsense seriously a new series, *Dent Everyman*, has started reissuing such classic thrillers with *Blind Corner* by Dornford Yates (£2.50) and *Buildup Drummond* (£2.50). *Flashman* and the Redskins by George MacDonald Fraser (*Pan*, £1.95) ships *Flashie* to the New World as a Forty-Niner on the Santa Fe trail, and then with Custer at Little Big Horn.

On the shelf of serious or higher fiction the event of the year was the appearance in paperback of Terry Kilmartin's definitive and sensitive translation of Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past* (Penguin, three volumes, £5.95 each). If you are ever going to climb that mountain, this is the best and cheapest version in English.

Virago at the end of the year published two of Nadine Gordimer's early novels, *The Lying Days* and *Occasion for Loving* (£3.50 each). One has to grow up and leave behind the lying days of youth. In South Africa there can be far-reaching consequences from the wrong occasion for loving. The books are about black and white, passion and politics, and the interesting grey areas in between, by one of our finest contemporary novelists.

For biography let us pick out Humphrey Carpenter's brilliant critical book on W. H. Auden (*Unwin*, £4.50); *Tennyson: The Unquiet Heart* by Robert Bernard Martin (*Faber*, £5.95); and Denis Mack Smith's *Mussolini* (*Paladin*, £2.95).

On the history shelf the biggest and best paperback of the year was John Julius Norwich's loving and scholarly portrayal of the most beautiful

and magical of cities: *A History of Venice* (Penguin, £8.95), the standard English work of Venetian history. Let us note two big biographical histories of English monarchs in the series edited by Professor J. J. Scarisbrick: Henry VI by Bertram Wolfe (*Methuen*, £5.95); and Edward IV by Charles Ross (*Methuen*, £7.95).

From the poetry shelf let us pick out *The Oxford Book of Satirical Verse*, chosen by Geoffrey Grigson (*Oxford*, £4.50), which covers the battlefield from the big guns of Dryden and Byron to the gentler satire of amusement, directed at conditions and circumstances, at common states of mind or the clichés of sentimentality. Also note *The Oxford Book of Verse in English Translation*, chosen and edited by Charles Tomlin-

son (*Oxford*, £4.95). Translation into verse is an old English art, and this anthology discovers it from all ages and languages, with many surprises and delights.

On the critical shelf the silver dagger must go to Philip Larkin for *Required Writing* (*Faber*, £4.95), his collected reviews from the past 30 years; viz. the finest and funniest lit. crit. in English. Notice also *The Penguin Complete Longer Non-Fiction of George Orwell* (Penguin, £3.95), a cumbersome title, but the first paperback collection of *Wigan Pier*, *Down and Out in Catalonia*.

For the classics I commend to you *Alfred the Great* by Simon Keynes and Michael Lapidge (*Penguin*, £2.95), a rich assembly of Asser, Alfred himself, and the other contemporary sources. Also do not miss

Horace, the Complete Odes and Epodes by W. G. Shepherd and Betty Radice (Penguin, £1.95). For crime Zomba Books have started a new series, called *Black Box Thrillers*, which recovers from oblivion the unobtainable pulp classics of our youth. The Cornell Woolrich volume includes *The Bride Wore Black* and *Waltz into Darkness* (both filmed by Truffaut), *Red Window* (Hitchcock) and *Phantom Lady* (Robert Siodmak).

The most conspicuous growth area in paperback publishing is literary travel. Century, Penguin and other houses have started good new travel series this year. But the most entertaining and perhaps least known single volume of travel between paperbacks was *Flaubert in Egypt*, edited by Francis Steegmüller (*Michael Haag*, £5.95).

Clarendon: "one of Britain's greatest men"



Clarendon: "one of Britain's greatest men"

Historic rectitude

Clarendon and the English Revolution By R. W. Harris

(Chatto & Windus, £30)

It is curious that considering the multitude of scholars who study every aspect of the Civil War in England, producing monographs on the struggle for Hull or cantankerous debates about the nature of Independency or the role of the Levellers, scarcely any turns to Clarendon's great history except as a source for pillage or disapproval. Compared with the vast scholarly industries that churn out books, articles and journals on Gibbon, Macaulay or even minor poets of the seventeenth century, Clarendon attracts few scholars, although most pay lip-service to his greatness. True, he has not been entirely neglected. Brian Wormald wrote a difficult, complex but highly perceptive study in 1951 (scarcely referred to by Mr Harris, maybe a brilliant *tour de force* by our best living historical essayist, Hugh Trevor Roper (if only he had written Clarendon's life rather than Archbishop Laud's), but little else.

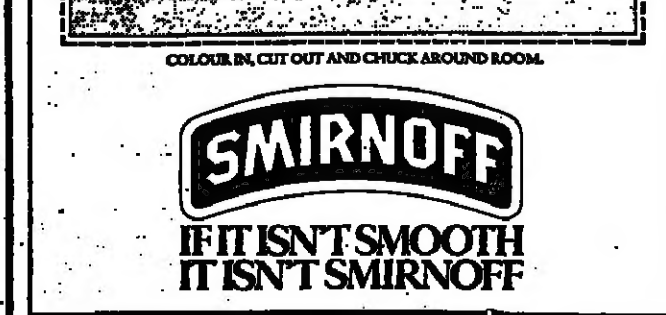
Unfortunately Mr Harris is not the man to fill the need for a new long study of Clarendon as both politician and historian. His book is easy to read and he has read the obvious sources. He quotes agreeably Clarendon's splendid prose so every few pages there is a delectable oasis to refresh the thirsty reader. But there are too many reminders of the classroom - too many "as Dr Morril says on Cheshire" or "as Professor Everitt writes on Kent" or "Dr Pearl on London" etc, followed by a long paragraph of précis. It is a pity that the end could not have reached another stomach. Nevertheless the book has many virtues. It is less tortuous than Wormald's; indeed it gives a good clear account of Clarendon's public life. Harris's judgments are sensible enough, though rarely penetrating or truly perceptive. It is a useful book for an intelligent reader, ignorant of Clarendon, yet curious about him.

I first read Clarendon at home in an old Becham edition and then found the majestic folio edition in the public library. Through the long summer of 1927 I read it day after day. It was like wandering in a cathedral - majesty everywhere, not only in the prose but in the thought, in the almost superhuman capacity for empathy and distance which are perhaps Clarendon's greatest qualities both as man and writer.

The first portrait that I bought was of Clarendon by Hanneman, but a far better

John Plumb

Anyone mean enough to throw a party without Smirnoff will have fun throwing this streamer.



COLOUR IN, CUT OUT AND CHUCK AROUND ROOM.

IF IT ISN'T SMOOTH IT ISN'T SMIRNOFF

Writing home Against the current

Selected Letters of E. M. Forster

Volume I: 1879-1920 Edited by Mary Lago and P. N. Furbank (Collins, £15.95)

Two jeers for Morgan! Since the death of "our greatest living novelist" in 1970, E. M. Forster's reputation, which had hitherto increased with every book he did not write, has taken what Dorian Williams used to describe so gloomingly as a crushing fall. Anthony Powell, the present GLN, surely spoke for England (if not for Eng. Lit.) when fingering Forster as the most overrated writer of this century. Simon Raven carried out a memorable hatch job in *Shadows on the Grass* on the venerable idol of King's. "The thing about Morgan," Joe Ackerley told Raven, "is that he's just an old auntie. He is mean, coy, prudish (although he purports to be of Rabelaisian tolerance) and very, very spiteful." Forster's sentimental gush and brand of liberalism won't wishy-washy any longer; that stuff about having the courage to lay his mother before his country, or whatever, was finally exposed as drivel in a climate where Cambridge itself began to seem suspect. Orders are slackening for after-life supper with the Apostles.

Forster's biographer P. N. Furbank, Reader in Literature at the Open University, is coolly bucking the trend. In his introduction to this first volume of *Letters*, he points out that Forster's friends regarded the novelist as quite special, charming, interesting, and a very strong character in certain respects. Professor Mary Lago of Missouri University, Mr Furbank's collaborator, feels that the letters selected "must make the reader feel the intensity of the convictions that motivated Forster as a professional and spiritual being: the importance of friendship, the evil of restrictions (such as censorship) of the free exchange of ideas, and the importance of all the arts as a bulwark for the desperate fragility of civilization."

Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd

Majestic vistas

Survey of London Volume XII, Southern Kensington: Brompton

Edited by F. H. W. Sheppard (Athlone Press for the GLC, £45) C. R. Aschbee founded The London Survey Committee, and, as its chairman, published in 1886 its first slim monograph. Now a function of the Historic Buildings Panel of the GLC, the Survey of London has just produced Volume XII, *Southern Kensington: Brompton*. It covers a wedge-shaped area from Knightsbridge in the east to Brompton Cemetery in the west, bounded by Brompton and Old Brompton Roads on the north and Fulham Road in the south.

Those familiar with this majestic and beautifully orchestrated work will know what to expect. Newcomers will be astonished by the comprehensiveness of its research and the quality and presentation of its content in text, drawing and photograph. Dr F. H. W. Sheppard has edited the Survey since 1954, producing 16 volumes. He has now retired after maintaining throughout standards unexcelled by any other work of this magnitude.

Although Brompton has some earlier buildings most date from 1820 when the surge of nineteenth-century speculative housebuilding was beginning to swallow up the famed orchards and market-gardens of west London. The area is divided into a number of estates of which the Smith's Charity Estate and the Boltons, and Redcliffe Square, are the largest. In addition Volume XII includes the development of *St Andrews*, the building of the London Oratory and the development of Alexander and Thurlow Squares, among others. The layout and design of the various estates were generally the responsibility of the estate surveyor, often an architect, George Baseri, architect of the

Darwin's Plots By Gillian Beer

(Routledge & Kegan Paul, £17.95)

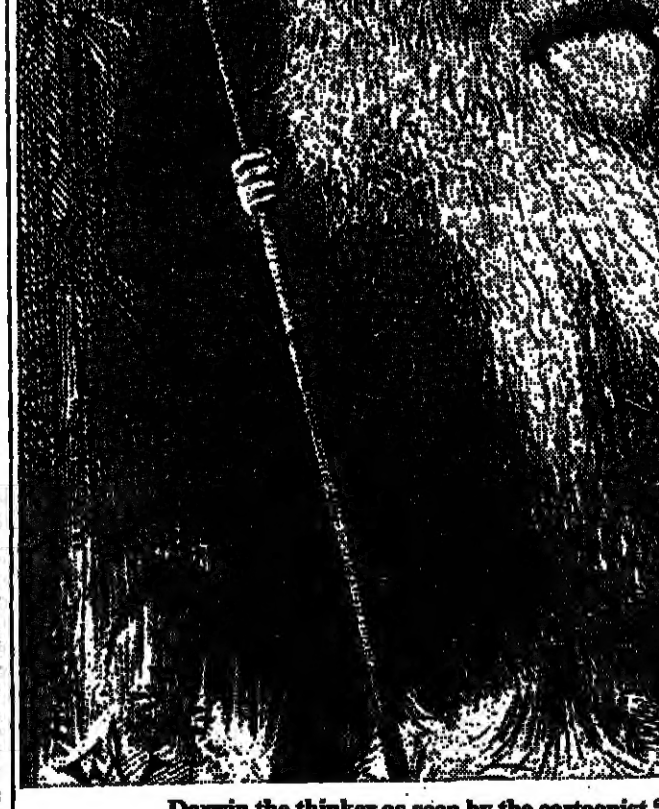
Some thinkers have so modified and constructed our ways of apprehending the world that we must discuss it in their terms, even if we have not read them, even if we wish to reject or modify their assumptions. Such was Darwin, and later, Freud. Gillian Beer's excellent book is about Darwin's ideas, as they developed. In the nineteenth century there were no "two cultures": history, science, religion, anthropology, sociology, literature appeared side by side in the same Reviews. Darwin wrote for the general civilized public. Gillian Beer begins with an examination of his language. She makes it very clear that he thought carefully about the implications of his choice of words and style.

His world, she says, teems with specifically described forms of life, abundance. It has "no place for an initiating or intervening creator". His world precedes Man, will probably last beyond him, exceeds the grasp of his understanding. *The Origin of Species* deliberately excludes discussion of the origin or nature of humankind. *Darwin's Plots* shows the hazards implicit in the nature of language itself for this enterprise. Language is a human phenomenon, anthropocentric. Mrs Beer shows Darwin

trying to mitigate this, and also revising his texts to get rid of a planning intelligence. He deletes phrases like "primordial forms into which life was first breathed". He amends the personification of Nature as a benign goddess, or *Natural Selection* as a designing demiurge. This is hard, the word "creature" implies "creator".

Observation of similarity is essential to human perception and thought; the making of metaphors is an intrinsic part of discovering the world. Some modern scientists eschew metaphor as an improper subjective intrusion into objective observation. Some see it as a way of observing the relations of minds and things. Language is shot through with metaphor; consider the roots of a plant, a tooth, a language, a race, a culture. Again Dr Beer shows that Darwin thought about the sources and effects of his images. He depicted the relationships of species as a Tree of Descent, initially because the diagram he drew looked like a tree. But he carried Milton on his wandering journeys through the tropical forests and his tree became mythical, the Tree of Life, but also the Tree of Knowledge - *Arbor Vitae*, *Arbor Scientiae*. His subversive vision of our origins thus changes our myth of the origin, the Man in the Garden, naming the beasts of the field.

Plots shows Darwin's ideas (and those of other thinkers about Development) in Victorian fiction. *The Water*



Darwin the thinker as seen by the cartoonist "E.W."

Crime: a final selection by H. R. F. Keating

Saints and sinners who keep to the point

Short days: short stories. And fine bundles of dark evening whileways to hand. Most of them fall into that slightly curious mode the crime short story seems to impose. Depending on some ingenious twist not to be spotted by the reader, they have to cram a lot of significant, or red herring, details into comparatively short lengths and their prose tends therefore to be short and informative rather than rich and evocative. There is less there, to my mind, though anyone wanting merely 10 or 20 minutes' entertainment might disagree.

Plenty for such people to read here, most notably in *The Best of Ellery Queen* (Hale, £7.95) which contains 30 stories culled from the Sixties and Seventies in that sterling American magazine. With such a field to pluck from (Borges features, and H. G. Wells's fine, but surely non-mystery, tale "The Door in the Wall") it might be expected that the standard is high. And so it is in the informative line with such

stories as the late Ellery Queen's own four-page riddle "The Three Students". But in the evocative and memorable stakes only perhaps one, Eric Ambler's "The Blood Bargain", qualifies. But for that the Wells volume is worth having.

More reprints (and five originals) in John Creasey's Crime Collection 1983 edited by Herbert Harris (Gollancz, £7.95) and again mostly twist-in-tailers, including the winner of the first *Times* Veasey Cliquet contest, *Madeline Duke*. "The Day It Rained in Singapore", of which by now you have almost certainly forgotten the ingenious point. A story by Colia Dale, however, "Juno's Swans", certainly has the snake-whiffing of real life in it instead of the mechanical twisting of the games-player. And, defying my neat categorization, Peter Love's "The Virgin and the Bull" is as surprise-loaded as any aficionado could wish and yet recognizably about the real

world. Oh, and there is a Sherlock Holmes pastiche from me (naughty fellow).

Twelve wholly new stories in *Winter's Crimes* 15, edited by George Hardinge (Macmillan, £6.95) and again Colia Dale, who seems particularly happy setting her stories in distant days, sears heavily with "Faery Tale", a delicious, faultless evocation of late Victorian painterly circles. P. D. James, too, has a pulsing story not dissimilar to her novel *Innocent Blood*. The elbow-room this editor allows certainly helps anyone wanting to be more than merely ingenious. And, another confession, I wanted to do that myself. Read "And We in Dreams", and see if I succeed.

Finally there is Great French Detective Stories, edited by T. J. Hale (Bodley Head, £7.95). 10 stories ranging in date from 1876 to 1952, with a long scholarly introduction convincingly disproving the standard wisdom of British critics such as myself. Read "There is no crime

writing, bar Simonon, in French. Simonon, as might be expected, is the writer in this *galère* who splendidly shows (despite a Mr Hale "the boat which would leave") that a crime story can be a short story in the highest tradition. "Storm over the Channel" is full of the details, not of cooked-up crime, but of life, and it is funny too - "The sad lady looked at her whiting with very nearly the same expression as the whiting looked at her." Almost worth getting the book for that alone.

This is Harry Keating's last regular review of crime novels for *The Times*. He has entertained and informed and entertained, at an early age, the dozen of crime reviewers. If he did not quite invent, he perfected the 30-word capsule review that told you about the book and made you laugh. We shall miss him.

A. S. Byatt

THE TIMES DIARY

Charley's angst

In *The Boss*, the profile of Charles Haughey written by two Irish journalists, Joe Joyce and Peter Murrigh, the former Taoiseach is described thus: "He believed that there was a conspiracy behind most events: everything happened because somebody made it happen.... He saw the most lowly report in any newspaper as having been inspired by someone and having been selected, edited and printed for a reason. If it was a reference favourable to Haughey, then it had been done by friends; if it was unfavourable, it had been inspired and placed deliberately by an enemy." Eason's, one of Dublin's major retail chains has refused to stock the book. I suspect a conspiracy.

By a whisker

Though five female writers have been racing to produce their own books on the subject of the opposite sex, a mere male has beaten them to it. *Men*, by Philip Hodson, is due to be published January 11. Hodson, a marriage guidance counsellor and LBC's agony uncle, is perhaps the only professional problem-solver to be the source rather than the solution to a problem. Last year his wife, Anne Hooper, who is also a marriage guidance counsellor, wrote to *The Guardian* confessing a few doubts about how to cope with her own marriage.

The sales after

Since *The Day After* did not recoup its estimated \$7m budget from its single American television screening, the company that made it, ABC, are relying on foreign sales to make up the production costs. The situation is not promising. Though it has been shown on British television and in West German cinemas, it still awaits screenings in most other European countries. A planned showing in Poland earlier this month was cancelled by the Polish Government at the last minute. ABC may derive some hope from the fact that Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union have all requested cassettes of the film for review. Whether Michael Heseltine will be given a right to reply in these countries is not yet known.

Religious act

Not-so-old Christmas traditions: soldiers in the 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment, were given a self-service curry buffet instead of their usual Christmas lunch. And the parishioners at an Hertfordshire church in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, were treated to a new-style family service on Christmas Day. Opening the service, the vicar, wearing a puppet called Dylan, performed a ventriloquist act.

BARRY FANTONI



"I've got you some short-sleeved shirts and a nice pair of sandals"

Unpatriotic

Two scandals which disturbed Vienna at the turn of the century, one involving a judge accused of murder and the other an officer accused of spying, have provided the inspiration for several plays. One is *The Devil's Lieutenant* (to be screened by Channel 4 on January 12); another is John Osborne's *Patrol for the Devil*. The film rights of the latter were bought by a Hungarian film company for a new version to be directed by Szabo, who made the much-acclaimed *Mephisto*. Osborne's script has now been scrapped for it dwells on two things that would upset Hungarian officialdom: the chief protagonist's homosexuality and the fact that he was blackmailed into spying by the Russians.

Figured in

Awareness of the fact that 1984 is set in 1984 is going too far. A statement from Population Services Europe insists on dragging in a reference to the fateful year, as the current Arctic conditions demonstrate. "It was just 36 years ago in 1948 that George Orwell wrote his haunting novel *1984* and although he never made reference to terrifying population statistics...."

Imperial echo

Hussanah Bolikah, the Sultan of Brunei, is buying most of the furniture for his new palace at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Patricia Menguito, who is acting as his agent, finds the Mart perfect for such items as the \$20,000 dining room set in the clean contemporary style which the Sultan prefers. Unfortunately, it does not stock thrones, and the four required by Brunei have to be ordered from the makers in London. Ms Menguito comments: "It's tough to find a good throne-maker these days."

PHS

Poland: Roger Boyes on a new conflict between church and state

The explosive case of the turbulent priest

Warsaw The Christmas congregation at the Warsaw church of St Stanislaw Kostka was as mixed as the shepherds and the magi at the plastic crib: burly steelworkers from the nearby Hutis Warszawa mill, scanning the pews for any threat to their parish priest; actors, intellectuals, students accustomed to hearing gritty pro-Solidarity sermons, and inevitably, unscrupulous police. A detective puzzle - who put explosives and ammunition in the apartment of the parish priest - has mingled with the deeper religious mysteries of the season and given an uneasy edge to relations between church and state in Poland.

The story so far: Father Jerzy Popieluszko, a young priest with a sharp tongue ("I try to say what others think") and an entrenched sympathy for the outlawed Solidarity union, has been under investigation for some months for the anti-government tone of his sermons, especially those delivered in his monthly masses for the fatherland.

Word reached him from senior churchmen and eventually from the authorities that he was one of four priests being investigated, although no formal charges had been presented. This did not surprise Father Popieluszko, whose sermons regularly draw congregations of several thousands, the crowd spilling into a nearby park, and a large display of uniformed police.

In early December the police tried to issue the priest with a summons but the housekeeper refused to answer the knocking and a gaggle of angry women scared them away. On December 12 the police eventually managed to take the priest for interrogation, and in his pockets found the keys to his apartment. Father Popieluszko normally lives in a cluttered study-bedroom at the church and rarely uses the flat. Police entered the apartment the same morning and say they found explosives, ammunition, many thousands of leaflets calling for demonstrations, an underground printing press, printing ink, illegal documents and canisters of tear gas. The priest has been charged accordingly but after the intervention of the episcopate has been released on bail.

The discovery was extraordinary

and, despite the utterances of church advisers that this was an isolated, politically insignificant case, poses serious questions about the future strategy of the Catholic church. Until now, official action against priests has been based on the idea that church and state are separate and that anti-government sermons cross the demarcation line. Church leaders accept that the state has the right to declare some utterances provocative but then tries to undo any damage through the church-state mixed commission or by the personal intervention of a bishop on behalf of his local priest. The bishop agrees to have a cooling word with the priest, the priest is freed and, after a couple of weeks, everything is back as it was.

The government recently told church representatives that it had a list of 69 clerics whose activities were breaking the law, but the list was not handed over. This in itself does not constitute a crisis in church-state relations, say church advisers, and most people agree with that view.

The case of Father Popieluszko, however, is more serious. The government says that too many priests are encouraging the Solidarity opposition - but so long as this encouragement is expressed in sermons, couched in religious metaphor, there is not a great deal that the authorities can do, even under the more restrictive sections of the revised penal code. But the discovery of explosives, if the authorities can make the charges stick, places radical priests directly in the centre of conspiracy theories beloved of hardline Marxists.

For some time now there have been mutterings in Prague and Moscow about unholy alliances between Polish priests and dangerous counter-revolutionaries (the codeword for Solidarity). They can all nourish their prejudices on Father Popieluszko.

The priest has denied the charges but cannot comment on them. There seem to be three broad possibilities. First, that the priest really was the focus of an underground group with violent ambitions. None of his parishioners can accept this. Second, that he unwittingly lent his apartment to a friend who in turn lent it to an



Father Jerzy Popieluszko: subversion - or was he framed?

underground activist. Or, finally, that the material was planted, perhaps by a disgruntled faction within the security apparatus.

The last possibility is not entirely fanciful: last May a dozen men later identified as security policemen broke into a church aid centre, destroyed medicines and beat up charity workers. The incident, a month before the Pope's visit, was never explained satisfactorily.

The church is not in an easy position. Its strategy, especially since the papal visit, has been to expand the lines of dialogue with the government and make full use of them to press, for example, for the freeing of political prisoners, or a special fund to aid private farmers. At the same time it has allowed parish priests to carry out their ministry according to their preference: there is little central guidance, and this has obviously benefited many priests with Solidarity sympathies.

Now it may face the choice from the Jaruzelski leadership: give stricter guidelines to your priests or jeopardize the past gains, the ground won by the Pope's visit.

It is a complex dilemma best illustrated by the confusion surrounding the Christmas message from Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the primate, to the people. The first draft of the message calls on priests not to contribute to social friction. The second and final version simply says that the episcopate, in keeping with the teaching of the Pope, will advise its priests to stay out of politics.

The primate knows that 1984 could bring only small victories but big defeats for the Catholic church. Father Popieluszko knows that even small victories are worth fighting for, that small wins for the church are still "large gains for Christ". In a mass earlier this year, he said: "One must not keep silent when proven Christian morality is replaced by so-called socialist morality."

In search of a Falklands umbrella

Deadlock persists over the sovereignty issue, but Henry Stanhope suggests that contact with the new Argentine government of President Alfonsín (right) can only be a matter of time



lands, the need for the runway is almost undeniable.

So, if Britain is unwilling to debate sovereignty, its right to build a new airport or, for the time being, its protection zone around the islands, what would it put forward at the umbrella talks?

One relatively easy subject would be the future of the 230 graves of Argentine soldiers who died in last year's war and who now lie buried there. Ideally Britain would like the Alfonsín government to rebury the bodies on the mainland. Failing that, Whitehall would agree to a properly constituted visit by relatives, under the organization of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This, moreover, is a topic which could be discussed by the Argentines with the ICRC, avoiding the complication of bilateral talks between the two governments.

Secondly, Britain would like to re-establish commercial relations. Five representations have been made through the European Commission presidency on Britain's behalf, but so far without success. London lifted financial restrictions between the two countries in October 1982, but Argentina reciprocated a year later only after pressure had been exerted by the International Monetary Fund.

In 1981, the last full year before the war, Britain sold £161m worth of goods to Argentina and bought £137m worth in return. This represented only 3.4 per cent of world trade with the Argentines, slightly less than France and Italy and significantly less than West Germany. But restoration of trade would be an important step forward. So would the development of fresh scientific, cultural and sporting links. (At least one senior British diplomat sat in the crowd at White Hart Lane when Ossie Ardiles of Argentina played his first game for Tottenham Hotspur after the war).

There is no evident hurry to restore full ambassadorial relations, which is being seen as a target rather than a starting point. At present each country is allowed four diplomats in a Special Interests section in the other's capital, the British flying under the Swiss embassy flag in Buenos Aires, the Argentines under the Brazilian standard in Britain. But all serious communications are conducted through the protecting powers, Switzerland and Brazil.

This makes communications arduous. A British message to the Argentine government would normally have to be sent by the Foreign Office, first to the British embassy in Bern, then the Swiss foreign ministry, over to the Swiss embassy in Buenos Aires and then to the Argentine government. The reply goes to the Brazilian embassy there, back to the foreign ministry in Brasilia, over to the mission in London and thus back to the Foreign Office. Diplomats say they have learned to live with it.

But despite conflicting statements as each government feels its way forward, the indications are that contact between the two capitals - by however tortuous a route - will happen sooner rather than later.

Florida, in the Deep South, is shivering through its coldest December since 1906, with temperatures in the low 20s F. This garden statue was left with its adornment of icicles when the fountain froze.



Whether Britain will also suffer. It is commonly believed that when the US gets cold weather, it will be our turn a week or two later.

At the simplest level, this is a fallacy. The surges of Arctic air that hold America in their sway will be played out long before they can cross the Atlantic. However, the atmospheric patterns which result in such extreme weather may also feature similar meanderings lower down. So we could be in for a bout of Arctic cold.

On the other hand, because such patterns are not common, a further northward sweep of warm air, such as we are now experiencing, is just as likely.

So not too much can be read into the cold weather in the United States. We shall just have to hold our breaths to see whether we are destined to shiver or merely to watch snugly from afar.

W. J. Burroughs

George Walden

Reds and beds: the cash connexion

The job of the Government's new health service, is to unify, to reconcile and to make one where there were many. One of the trickiest areas to coordinate is foreign and domestic policy, which intersect in unpredictable ways. Lord Whitelaw will need no reminding of this. But he might like to reflect on the implications of a double anniversary which falls next year.

Nato and the NHS will soon be 35 years old. In each case there is a lot to celebrate. Since the war, Britain has enjoyed greater peace and better health than at any other time this century. We shall still need both institutions in the year 2000 - unless Soviet hearts are melted by CND's call for the abolition of the Warsaw Pact. But who is going to pay the dizzying cost of both? And have we got our spending priorities between them right?

The current costs of defence and health are running neck and neck at about £15 billion, with defence edging ahead next year. Only social services (i.e. pensions and benefits) cost more. It takes a lot of people to keep us secure and well: nearly a million in the NHS; more than 500,000 in defence. Elsewhere, new technology is often as much a threat as a promise. But not here. In these two areas it does not mean fewer jobs, there being no obvious substitute for infantrymen or nurses.

It has been calculated that the entire present British defence budget will buy exactly one modern aircraft by the year 2000. If costs rise as they have done in recent years, no doubt the same calculation could be used to show that the NHS budget could buy a single body scanner by the same date. In health and defence, it seems that nothing but the best will do.

What does all this have to do with Willie Whitelaw? As the strains of maintaining the NHS and defence increase, so will the temptation for the man in the street to ask how many hip-joint operations you could get for a £15m tank. It is of course a false choice: better red than no hospital bed is neither an attractive nor a necessary option. But there is a chain of consciousness which runs straight from cruise and Trident to bed closures in the local hospital.

It is not only hysterical penicemans and glibble derygmans who are asking why we are "cutting" the health service and deploying "surplus" nuclear weapons. Perfectly sensible people are confused and apprehensive about the priorities of security: security against the menace from Moscow, and in old age. And, as Lord Whitelaw must know better than anyone, you can only isolate the extremes, whether in the health services trade union Cose or CND, if you reassure the middle.

How is this to be done? The Government has the right policies - but that is not enough. They must be seen as national policies and the Government must show itself as

determined to manage the whole area of defence as it is the NHS.

Increasingly, defence and arms control go together in the public mind. We shall find it difficult to go on contributing more than anyone else except the Americans to Nato (5.3 per cent of gnp) unless we are seen to make a distinctive national contribution to arms control too. Otherwise, fears that we are doing more than our fair share in military terms, and less than we should to reduce East/West tensions, will gain ground.

We are, and should remain, the closest European allies of the US. But the most reliable allies are those who can be relied on to speak their own minds. We do not share Washington's more extravagant visions of a titanic struggle with communism, and we should say so. What we do share is the burden of defence against the real Soviet threat, soberly assessed, and we should say that too.

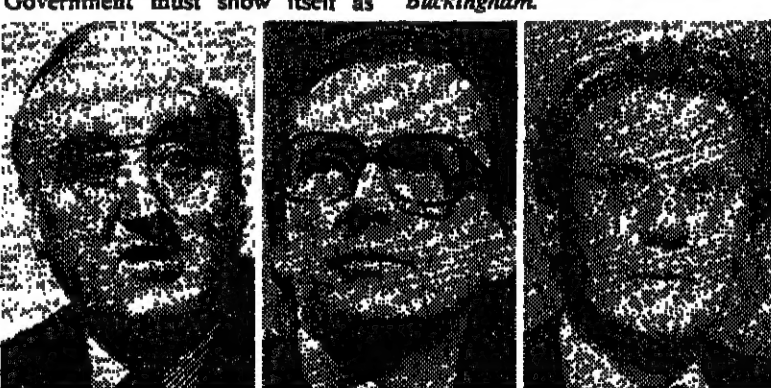
This is where the national element comes in: a more distinctively British style, coupled with rigorous management of the defence budget. It will widen the base of support for the continuing exertions we shall need to make to ensure our security into 1990 and beyond.

Like East-West relations, the health service cries out for proper management if we are able to afford it, as well as defence, in 15 years' time. It is difficult to complain about, or even calculate, a half per cent cut in staff when you do not know how many people you employ, which is the case in some health authority regions. The left emphasizes that it is a national service; so it is, and efficiency is in the interests of everyone.

Defence is different, but it is not different. Efficiency is not divisible: the Government's slogan that it can be achieved in the NHS without damaging patient care should be echoed in a determination to ensure that we spend as much on the military as we need, and no more, and that the money is well spent - at the sharp end.

The argument could be extended to education, or to local government, where painful readjustments are also taking place. But for obvious reasons, the health service is the most poignant parallel. The last thing we need, as we move up to the golden jubilee of the NHS and Nato in 15 years, are enforced, hasty cuts in both areas because we have failed to take the right decisions now. We need reassurance that defence as well as health is under firm national management. Michael Heseltine - a proven "organization man" - is just right for the job. And Lord Whitelaw, whose task it is to see across the whole span of policy, is well placed to orchestrate the reassurance.

The author is Conservative MP for Buckingham.



Lord Whitelaw, holding the ring between the demands of Health (Norman Fowler) and Defence (Michael Heseltine). There need be no conflict if expenditure on both is rigorously controlled

Richard North

How to avoid being the guilty party

Little time is left to arm yourself with the Neurotic Party-Goers' Guide. Remember that your enemies are (1) your hosts, (2) drink, (3) yourself. There is a fourth, so devastating that, should you feel it coming on, get into your coat, gather up your loved ones and hit the street: (4) boredom. A bored guest is a dangerous guest. If your loved ones won't leave with you, go without them.

There is nothing you can do about your hosts: they are at war with you. Their purpose is liveliness and they will aim at a gamut which runs from an Ullapool trawlerman's brawl to Armageddon. They will have selected as formidable a front line as they can find. They will have engineered it that several of the guests dislike one another a great deal. They cannot lose: if their guest list lacks ferocity, it will invite boredom (see above) and will still have brought out the worst in you.

About drink, I think, there is little you can do. I advise against sudden shifts in policy: if you give it up too quickly, your nerves will accentuate your host's ability to deploy your own worst enemy - the enemy within. Remember, however, that most hosts go for the quick kill, while your nerves are at their worst. Early on in the proceedings, you will be most pined with drink, go steady at this point and you will stand a good chance of surviving the long haul. (Of all the advice, this part is the one I find most difficult to follow).

But the big problem will always be yourself. Parties are designed to be ever-exciting: they exist to make roomfuls of people go towards the edge of the known world and to peer over it, giddy with the hysteria passed from person to person, and adding their own barely controlled dementia to the brew. Dull people at dull parties know they have failed: the hosts' best hope is that they will be too dull to gossip about it. But the man who falls down the stairs in a

drunken swoon, having tried to maul his best friend's wife, is not, by comparison, a failure. He is merely an over-achiever.

At parties there is that extraordinary moment - sometimes it lasts for hours and begins as the door is opened to one's tumorous knock - when the jaw and the brain, both working flat out, seem to have no connection.

On and on flows the mad, endless stream - whole autobiographies, wild assertions, prognostications on every subject. This isn't too bad. The worst is to come: it is when you find yourself emboldened to denigrate So-and-So (a famous, powerful person, who might be very useful to you one day) in those terms of scornful denunciation you think Dorothy Parker would have used when she bumped into H. L. Mencken while Scott Fitzgerald stood by taking notes so that Neil Simon would have something for his next play. On and on the jaw chomps, through entire dictionaries of hate, ribaldry, and sneer.

Then the nice woman you're speaking to tells you how she has always been very fond of So-and-So, how he helped her a lot when her husband died.

(She may also say that So-and-So's wife has been very ill for years, and that he always speaks well of you). You are in freefall. The parachute won't open, the ground is rushing up toward you.

There is nothing you can do about it. You can only hope that when you come round in the morning you may begin a long life's repentance, get into yoga and take up reindeer farming in Nova Scotia.

Don't ask me how to avoid these pitfalls. To seek advice from me on these points is to ask the Pope how to get to a Brook advisory centre. One absolute rule I shall essay, and I don't know why it is so hideously true: "Never apologize, never explain." People will probably stop inviting you altogether if you start that nonsense.



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STEADY AS SHE GOES

The chill has gone from the economic air. There are forecasters who insist through disappointed teeth that we shall pay later for the warm spell they had not foreseen but elsewhere the mood on the eve of 1984 is moderate to good. Whereas in the summer even perennial optimists were infected by fashionable doubt, few now question whether recovery from recession is either genuine or lasting. The United States is setting a pace which only Japan can hope to match but Britain is among the leaders with an annual growth rate touching three per cent, and perhaps accelerating.

There are hopeful signs. Export prospects in important markets have brightened perceptibly as their economies begin to wax in the American sun. Unit labour costs are moving up no faster than those of our principal trading rivals and the fall in sterling which began late in 1982 has given pricing a more competitive edge. Exporters are clearly encouraged when they have a reviving home market at their backs. Recovery and greater optimism, decisively coupled with improving profitability, have had a similar revitalizing effect on investment. According to the most recent Department of Trade and Industry survey, manufacturing industry expects to invest nine per cent more in 1984 than in 1983. This is an unusually high figure and it reflects more than any other single statistic the change of

mood in industry since the summer.

The argument is not about increasing exports nor about the level of investment but about the rate of consumer spending which together with rebuilding of depleted stocks has brought the economy out of the trough. The OECD believes that consumer spending will not be sustained and suggests that the best of the recovery may already be behind us. If the OECD is right it will be right for different reasons.

Since the middle of 1982 consumer spending has gone up by five per cent, with spending on durable goods rising by 25 per cent. Though disposable incomes after allowing for inflation have hardly risen at all since 1981 this has not been a deterrent. Falling inflation has stimulated the shopping urge. Savings have been drawn down and plentiful credit from banks and building societies has covered any remaining gaps between means and ends. There is no sign of the spending spree subsiding and thus no real chance that the recovery will falter and fade on that account.

The domestic threats to recovery are the familiar ones of immoderate pay settlements and barriers to technological progress on which genuine advances in productivity depend. The crucial economic achievements of Mrs Thatcher's Government are a much reduced inflation and a slow but perceptible rolling back of the destructive power of outmoded trade unionism. Neither seems in jeopardy at the

moment though some recent pay settlements, adding in wage drift, have been on the high side.

There is still a risk of higher interest rates, which if allied with unsightly higher taxes in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Spring Budget, would bring economic growth stuttering to a standstill. Falling inflation and the Government's firm fiscal and monetary policies would by now have resulted in much lower interest rates had it not been for the persistently high level of interest rates in the United States. The overseas chorus of complaint against President Reagan's huge budget deficits, which are the reason for US rates being so high, has evoked no response. Nor is the President likely to respond until his own or his chosen successor's election is assured. The best the world can hope for is that interest rates will not be forced up before capital markets begin to anticipate lower rates when the presidential election is over.

As for Mr Lawson's first major Budget, he has enough options to avoid adding to the tax burden where it would hurt. If he uses them and seeks to redress the imbalance between current and capital outlays in the Government's own spending, then 1984 will be a significant year in the economic cycle: a year in which the momentum of economic recovery and industrial revival increased; inflation continued to fall; and unemployment, which in 1983 stopped rising, at last began to come down. It is an exciting prospect.

COMPETITION IN THE KREMLIN

President Andropov is clearly seriously ill, yet it is his supporters who have been promoted. The explanation is to be found in the Kremlin power struggle which invariably follows the emergence of a new Party General Secretary. Because he is chosen by the dozen or so men in the ruling Politburo rather than elected on the basis of universal suffrage, he cannot immediately change its membership. It takes several years to replace opponents, and even those who voted for the new leader do not wish him to become so powerful by introducing fresh faces that their own carefully accumulated authority is threatened.

President Andropov attained power despite the opposition of the Brezhnev faction, which supported the former leader's choice of successor, Konstantin Chernenko, and which now sees an opportunity to regain the ascendancy because of Mr Andropov's illness. If they fail, they will gradually be ousted from the central leadership. If they succeed, however, it will be the Andropov clique which goes. This battle has been fought continuously over the past year, only occasionally emerging in public in the form of obscure hints in the media.

The Chernenko faction reminisces about the good old days under the guidance of Leonid Brezhnev. The Andropov supporters place great emphasis on the campaign to eliminate the corruption and inefficiency of the past. Pravda recently carried two particularly strong attacks on the leadership of the Moldavian republic which was closely associated with the former leader.

The significant point is that even if Yuri Andropov cannot himself continue the process of ousting the Chernenko faction, his supporters must do so to preserve their own position. For younger potential successors such as Mikhail Gorbachev, 52, and Grigory Romanov, 60, the longer Mr Andropov remains at the top, the better their chances, since Mr Chernenko is 72.

Of those promoted this week, Mikhail Solomentsev, 70, remained for more than a decade under Brezhnev as Premier of the Russian Federation and a non-voting candidate member of the Politburo. Last June he took charge of the Party control committee, responsible for eliminating corrupt or politically inconvenient party members and he is now a full voting member of the Politburo. Mr Vitaly Vorontnikov, 57, brings

its membership to 13. Removed to Cuba as Ambassador in 1979, he was brought back to replace a corrupt associate of Mr Brezhnev in July 1982 and later filled Solomentsev's vacancy as Premier of the Russian Federation, the largest of the 15 Soviet Republics.

The present head of the KGB, Mr Viktor Chebrikov, 60, for years Mr Andropov's deputy in the state security organization, is now one of six candidate Politburo members. Mr Egor Ligachev, 63, adds an eleventh member to the powerful Party Secretariat, responsible for drafting and executing policy under the direction of the Politburo. Mr Andropov brought him from far-off Tomsk to head the important department responsible for appointing party officials.

These promotions certainly weaken the position of the Chernenko faction, and if Mr Andropov is as ill as he seems, improve the prospects of Mr Romanov and Mr Gorbachev, who are members of both Politburo and Secretariat. Long after Mr Brezhnev had ceased to be capable of decisive leadership, he was allowed to retain his post in order to conceal the Kremlin's succession struggle. This may now be Mr Andropov's fate.

ON A POSTCARD PLEASE

The annual admiration contest run by Radio Four's Today programme must be the silliest survey in the polling calendar. Field work is conducted only among people who get up, or at least wake up, reasonably early. If you don't, you never hear about the poll. That excludes all well-tested minds preferring to grapple with life's problems only later in the day.

There is the further arbitrary elimination of everybody who does not have a postcard to hand. Even then the sample is wholly self-selecting, and it is unsafe to assume that those who write to the BBC form a typical cross-section of the literate population. The methodology is also at fault in being wide open to organized write-ins on behalf of causes. The BBC claims to be able to spot the hand of pressure groups, but does not say why it thinks it can tell spontaneous postcards from committed postcards when it gets them.

So, absolved from the necessity of taking the thing seriously, one can make what one likes of it.

With Olympian detachment, or hopeless indecision, the postcards put Mrs Thatcher at the head of one division and Monsignor Kent head of the other. There Man and Woman of the Year can salute each other across the gender gap. Mrs Thatcher, if she were someone else, would like to be Mother Teresa, who takes third place in the chart. Whether Mother Teresa would like to be Mrs Thatcher if she were someone else is not known. It is known that Mrs Joan Ruddock, runner-up in the women's section, would not like to be Mrs Thatcher and vice versa, though it may be supposed that she would like to be Monsignor Kent if she had to be a man. So would Ms Helen John, representative.

Greenham woman (placed seven out of ten); though perhaps Mrs Victoria Gillick (placed sixth immediately after the Princess of Wales), would not, even though Monsignor Kent would be unlikely to recommend contraceptives for her under-age daughters. Another point to notice in the women's section is the welcome

appearance of Princess Anne, who pips her sister-in-law to fourth place.

Among the men Mr Eddie Shah of Warrington fame, second to the monsignor, is a new meteor in the sky. Mr Joe Wade, who has been around for some time, is nowhere. Must be a sampling error. Among the evergreens like Mr Lech Walesa, and Mr Ken Livingstone (soon to be abolished) it is nice to see Lord Tonypanady. It says something for Today listeners that they can penetrate his new disguise to spot plain Speaker Thomas, whose mellifluous "Order, Order" used to come through at 8.40 as the signal to switch off.

It is said about Mr Heseltine after his trying so hard. Beaten by the snooker champion into eighth place he has to watch Father Bruce run away with the spoon. Perhaps as guardian-in-chief of deterrence he has taken on a deterrent quality of his own, a sort of radio-repellent after-shave which confuses early morning listeners.

Justice for ratepayers

From Councillor Peter Davis
Sir, It is with some astonishment that I read in the press that some Conservative members of Parliament and peers are contemplating not supporting the Government's rate-capping proposals.

I live in one of the worst high-spending boroughs in the country - Lambeth. In only five years the left-wing Labour administration has raised our domestic rates by 236 per cent, with very little to show in improved services. They are now warning of a further rate increase of 30 per cent next March.

No government - whether Conservative or Labour - can be

prepared to give an open-ended commitment of continuing local authority spending through the rate-support grant. I believe that the Government has recognised the pleas of ratepayers, whether domestic or commercial, in extravagant boroughs like Lambeth and we fully support the Government's rate-capping proposals.

Those Conservatives who are wavering in their support for this manifesto commitment should do well to remember that there is not one rule for local authorities and another for Whitehall, nationalised industries and private industry. All these bodies have to recognise only national economic considerations but also how much the

contributors, whether they are taxpayers or ratepayers, can afford.

The only period of light in many years of gloom here in Lambeth was when our Conservative administration of five months last year quickly saved £3.5m and were able to make a tenpence reduction in the rate. As far as we are concerned, rate-capping for high spending local authorities cannot come quick enough.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAVIS,
Leader of the Conservative Opposition,
Lambeth Council,
Room 123,
Lambeth Town Hall,
Brixton Hill, SW2,
December 19.

Responsibility in police shooting

From Mr David Hamilton

Sir, The announcement last Thursday (report, December 23) that the Police Complaints Board has found that no one can be held to blame for the now famous attack by bullet, butt and boot upon Mr Stephen Waldorf nearly a year ago brings into sharp focus possible defects in the command structure of the Metropolitan Police and the role that officers are expected to play in it.

The marks of rank and respect that distinguish officers from constables are there for all to see. In return for these honours, are not police officers required to take responsibility for the men and women under them and be accountable for the operations they handle, in the same sort of way as officers in the Armed Services?

If they are, then it must surely now be asked why no officer from Kensington Police Station has stepped forward to at least share with the constables the responsibility for an operation which went so badly awry.

Who was in charge of the operation? Who issued the constables with their orders, and their guns, that evening? And why, when he did so, did he not appreciate that physical fear had so dramatically warped, or might dramatically warp, their judgment?

It may be some comfort for the people of London to know that the three constables concerned will never again carry guns, but, frankly, a more pertinent question that the Home Secretary should now be expected to answer is, will their superior officers ever again control constables?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HAMILTON,
164 Brixton Road, SW9,
December 27.

SDP coverage

From Mr Matthew Bryant

Sir, The logic and justice of the result, in terms of seats won, of the last general election was baffling to say the least, but some hope existed that the opinions of the millions of under-represented Alliance voters would still be heard both at Westminster and in the media, through their reporting of the parliamentary process.

However the scant coverage given in your paper's Parliamentary Report to the contributions of Liberal and SDP MPs during recent months hardly encouraged this hope and the events of the past week seem to have extinguished it.

Not only did the Government deem it fit to remove John Cartwright, the only SDP MP on the Defence Select Committee, from this committee in what was clearly a political manoeuvre most unbecoming of the of the whole ethos of the select committee system, but when I turned to *The Times* to read of these happenings and the subsequent protest of Dr Owen, it was in vain that I searched.

The one crumb of comfort to be gleaned from all of this is that the actions of the parties involved can only enhance the case for proportional representation; the question is: will it be reported?

I remain, Sir, your disgruntled servant,
MATTHEW BRYANT,
Brasenose College,
Oxford,
December 17.

Prosecution by stores

From Mr R. G. Prince

Sir, The incredible letter of Mr Recorder C. W. L. Jervis, (December 16) that there should be an absolute offence of taking goods without paying exposes the ever-increasing authoritarian nature of our judiciary.

Absolute offences are wholly contrary to the criminal law, and while certainly in the case of breaches of a positive duty mere negligence (coupled with the maxim *negligia ipsa loquitur*) should be enough to establish the necessary intent, the pernicious anomaly of the absolute offence should be abolished forthwith, by statute if necessary.

At the same time, in view of the enthusiasm with which especially magistrates' courts regard the passive act of walking off without paying (which was under the old law and still ought to be the *actus reus* of theft) as evidence of intent, what is required to protect the public against wrongful convictions of shoplifting is a change in the law of evidence such that intent must be established positively (e.g. by the possession of a "shop-lifter's pouch", or by running off with the goods when stopped); and ii. a reversal of the old procedural rule, such that criminal proceedings may not be instituted unless successful civil action has been taken.

This is a necessary test of the misappropriation of the goods.
Yours faithfully,
R. G. PRINCE,
112 Great Russell Street, WC1,
December 17.

Charities and the state

From the Director of the Family First Trust

Sir, As a voluntary organisation in receipt of public money via the Manpower Services Commission, the Urban Programme and the Housing Corporation, it must be assumed from your leader (December 17) that we are perceived as one of the less worthy charities that are causing you to worry.

Whilst not disagreeing with some aspects of your analysis, you have ignored the tight, almost stifling controls that departments exercise over public funds. We are not, by any means, escaping the scrutiny of public accountants nor the oversight of ministers, but there is a gap, in the inability to properly judge value for money.

Voluntary organisations are often

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Successes in housing policy

From the President of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers

Sir, Charles McKean made a number of valid points in his article of December 15, arguing the need for a long-term housing investment programme. However, he does not strengthen his case by omitting to take into consideration any of the successes of the Government's housing policy.

Private housing starts, at a forecast 165,000 in 1983, are now at their highest level for 10 years and through the use of partnership schemes more and more people are being given the opportunity to buy a home of their own.

The 90 per cent improvement grant provided almost embarrassingly successful, with renovations rising to an estimated 300,000 this year - not 43,000 as Charles McKean suggests - and the new technique of "enveloping" has proved an invaluable tool in the fight against urban decay.

Certainly, there are serious flaws in the Government's housing policy. Net capital expenditure on housing has fallen by 56 per cent in real terms since 1979-80. The arbitrary decision first to increase funding for improvement grants and then to withdraw those funds when the scheme proved successful has caused major problems for local authorities, householders and contractors. And the recent withdrawal of important draft circulars on land for housing will prove disastrous for the new households that are being forced to lengthen the dole queues.

However, what is needed now is not hysteria about the collapse of the housing stock but rather reasoned and practical proposals for meeting households' requirements within available resources over the rest of this decade.

Less inertia and more energy is required from the Government, both in implementing successful schemes such as "enveloping" for the rehabilitation of inner urban housing and in combating the Treasury's traditional inclination to squeeze every possible pip out of capital receipts in the housing programme.

Pressure upon the Government to shift its stance on housing invest-

ment will carry more weight and credibility if backed by accurate facts and practical proposals.
Yours faithfully,
BRUCE CHIVERS, President,
The National Federation of Building Trades Employers,
82 New Cavendish Street, W1,
December 22.

From Mr H. William-Olsson
Sir, Charles McKean's article (December 15) highlights a depressing situation where unemployment in the building trade is combined with a dangerous decline in the home market. Why does a Conservative Government, dedicated to the healing forces of monetarism, exclude these from a market so vital to human happiness?

Obviously the Rent Restriction Act must not be recast retrospectively. Millions, especially elderly people, need security of tenancy but if, from today, landlords were able to let without fearing that they would have to keep their tenants for ever, thousands of flats and rooms to let would come on the market. Young couples would not need to burden themselves with large loans at high interest in order to find a home at all.

As the demand for leases declined building societies would soon find themselves forced to lend to landlords for pure repair and maintenance work. As it is, the Rent Restriction Act drives the nation to allow vast capital resources in good Victorian houses to deteriorate while able building workers are forced to lengthen the dole queues.

It cannot be right to deprive landlords and prospective tenants of the elementary democratic right freely to negotiate agreements to their mutual advantage. An ugly suspicion creeps in that the present Government, which I support, maintains this anti-monetary legislation because home-owning is supposed to make people conservative.

It would do much better to be radical and rethink the whole absurd and almost tragic situation in terms of its own economic philosophy.
Yours faithfully,
H. WILLIAM-OLSSON,
11 Fawcett Street, SW10,
December 16.

Keeping the peace

From Mr Daniel Gruenberg

Sir, Michael Adams's letter (December 21) implies that what the US regards as retaliation in Lebanon is a terrorist action and not within the legitimate scope of a peace-keeping force. The crucial question, however, is whether American action is intended to, and is in fact, helping to bring about a ceasefire in the war waged by Syrian-backed rebels, that is denying Lebanon its sovereignty under the UN-recognized government.

On the basis that peace in Lebanon is dependent upon the withdrawal of all foreign forces - that Syria in occupation of over half of Lebanon refuses to withdraw simultaneously with Israel and is destabilizing the Lebanese Government in the small area it does control - an effective peace-keeping force cannot be regarded as non-partisan. It has the right to defend the Gemayel-led Government until the Lebanese army is equipped and trained to take over.

To quote from Robert McFarlane's press conference on "Euro-Net" (December 15): "The United States is willing to help them

develop their military for that purpose, and so there is every prospect that withdrawal of all foreign forces can take place at a pace in which there is no vacuum created".

The force's role is consistent with the Constitution of the Arab League which issued in 1944, when formed, a Protocol stating that the signatories, which included Syria, "unanimously affirmed their respect for the independence and sovereignty of Lebanon within her present frontiers which furthermore their governments had already recognized".

King Hussein of Jordan in November, 1983, criticized Syria and Libya for their "role in Northern Lebanon".

The US-Israel alliance does not conflict with legitimate Arab interests, as it is based on a mutual interest in the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty and reconciliation. It will ensure that Lebanon will not be used as a military base against Israel for the "liberation of all Palestine".

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL GRUENBERG,
139 High Street,
Hampton Hill,
Middlessex,
December 22.

Future of the GLC

From Mr Peter Waine

Sir, Mr Alderman and others (December 21) seem to take an unnecessarily pessimistic view about the proposed indirectly elected body to replace the GLC. It is that suggestion really so anti-democratic or wicked for a region which has 94 GLC councillors, 12 MP boroughs (with about 1,600 local councillors) and a Court of Common Council with 120 representatives? The hard truth is that London is a contracting, over-governed region.

In practice, the GLC tier of government has not acted as a single voice representing Londoners, nor has it helped to arrest the decline in the region's infrastructure or in jobs; for example over the last decade we have lost a third of our manufacturing jobs compared with a national decline of a quarter and we are the only region to experience a net loss of service jobs over the same period. Indeed, the only growth industry seems to have been the political establishment in London.

I am surprised that such eminent academics can confuse bureaucratic waste with a sensible level of democracy. What on earth can we lose, therefore, by slicing off one tier of government? Indeed it could be argued that in strengthening the powers of the lower tier of local government local democracy is being strengthened.

Moreover it is quite consistent with our constitutional tradition of sensible reforms and periodic

redistribution of power according to circumstances. It is wrong to suggest that a century of democratic local control of Londonwide services would end.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WAINE, Director,
London Region,
Confederation of British Industry,
Centre Point,
103 New Oxford Street, WC1.

Reddaway report

From Sir Duncan Oppenheim

Sir, What has happened to the Reddaway report?

Several years ago, when I was chairman of the Overseas Investment Committee of the CBI, we commissioned a report from Professor Reddaway on the effect of overseas investment on the economy of the United Kingdom.

I believe its findings still to be valid and I recommend Mr Robin Cook ("Time to bring back exchange control," December 19) to obtain a copy and study it.

The report did much to dispel the simplistic views of those who were claiming unqualified benefits to the economy of overseas investment and of those who, like Mr Cook, saw little but harm to the economy.

In particular, according to my recollection, it established that overseas direct investment did not take place at the expense of home direct investment.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN OPPENHEIM,
43 Edwards Square, W8.

Lack of respect for the law

From Mr J. O. Thomson

Sir, Sir Alec Atkinson (December 23) draws attention to the apparent inconsistency between your call (December 17) for the law to be respected in the NGA dispute and your tolerance towards journalists' defiance of it in certain circumstances.

However, if one equates deliberate failure to enforce the law with disrespect for it, the Government itself is setting a bad example.

As you remind us in your leading article, "Price for the job" (December 20) this Administration dislikes wages councils and will be able to act against them in 1985, when the ILO (International Labour Organization) Convention can be denounced.

Meanwhile it is discouraging enforcement of existing regulations, a fact accepted by the Chairman of the Institute of Directors on BBC *Panorama* last Monday and denied by no one.

Many employers would welcome reform of the wages councils, but failure to enforce the existing legislation means that those of us who observe our statutory duties are placed at a competitive disadvantage by those who pay lower rates.

Can the law be sacrosanct when the lawgivers flout it?

The trade unions have been told to obey the law and try to get it changed if they do not like it. Does this not apply to Mrs Thatcher, too? Yours faithfully,
J. O. THOMSON,
Managing Director,
P. H. Woodward & Co Ltd,
Parade,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire.

Looking after parks

From Councillor J. J. Haggerty

Sir, Robert Holden deserves support for his contention (December 14) that the main metropolitan parks owned by the GLC should continue to be funded on a regional basis.

Their administration by a joint board, similar to that proposed in the White Paper for other services in London, undoubtedly has its attractions. A multiplicity of joint boards for parks, historic buildings, museums, and similar functions could hardly be regarded however, as "Streamlining the Cities".

A more politically acceptable solution, if the GLC has to be abolished, is the establishment of a joint board for museums, arts and recreation. Such a joint board could embrace the GLC's current responsibilities in these areas including museums, the South Bank complex, parks, the National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace, archaeological services, cultural events and grants to voluntary bodies. To these functions might be added the GLC's Historic Buildings Division and the Greater London Record Office.

It is most unlikely that the London boroughs will be willing or able to undertake the majority of these responsibilities as proposed by the Government. The Arts Museums Service for South-eastern England, the London Museums Consultative Committee and the London Federation of Museums and Art Galleries all support the idea of a joint board as outlined above.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN J. HAGGERTY,
London Museums Service,
34 Burners Lane Kiln Farm,
Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire.

Aid for the arts

From Mr Melvyn Bragg

Sir, I am delighted that Mr Priestley's enquiry into the finances of the Royal Opera House and the RSC has resulted in these companies being given more money (report, December 21). It is useful that an independent report should once again confirm the outstanding value for money - besides everything else - brought about by the small, enabling investment in the arts.

It would be a great pity, though, if Mr Priestley were to be confined to these two companies only. The unworthy suspicion would then surely arise that the Government was only prepared to shore up companies whose financial embarrassment would bring about public, even international, ridicule.

To be fair - and there is every evidence that Lord Gowrie, like the Prime Minister, strives to be fair - Mr Priestley should now be encouraged to go to Liverpool, Newcastle, Leeds, Glasgow, etc., etc. In my opinion, he would again and again discover very well run companies largely subsidised by their staff, and performers straining to break even and every bit as worthy of proper support as the RSC and the Royal Opera House.

Yours faithfully,
MELVYN BRAGG,
London Weekend Television,
Kent House,
Upper Ground, SE1.

Hitting a wrong note

From Mr Brian Champness

Sir, By describing the police car siren as a "horrible French-style donkey bray" in his letter of December 21 Mr Fyfe cast an unwarranted slur on a gentle and lovable animal.

The early morning call of our own donkeys, echoing over the beautiful Tamar Valley, can better be likened to the deeper notes of the Alpine horn, as I am sure our neighbours would agree.

In common with other angry donkey lovers, we would have buried Wednesday's letters page to the stable floor, had it not been for the Court Circular overleaf.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN CHAMPNESS,
1 Crokers Row,
Gunnislake,
Cornwall,
December 22.

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Brave new world for investment trusts

Next year will be the year of the investment trust - provided that the movement can market itself better and attract overseas cash.

During 1983 the FT-Actuaries Investment Trust index appreciated 38 per cent compared with an increase of 23.9 per cent in the FT-A All-Share index. Private investors have come back while institutional investors' interest has been whetted by better information from (some) investment trusts which have traditionally adopted a low profile. Mr Ted Sellers and Mr Garth Milne of Laing & Cruckshank, argue in the firm's 57th annual year book on investment trust companies, that the time has come for the investment trust industry to realize its potential.

They point out that during 1983 no less than 187 trusts outperformed the All-Share index and only a handful ("seven or eight") underperformed it. Yet despite the removal of the twin problems of exchange control regulations and the dollar premium, which dogged investment trusts in the 1970s, share prices are still at an average discount of about 25 per cent to assets. The reason for the continuing discount, they argue, is that the sector is too big for the British market; it therefore must go overseas, particularly to the US. They concede that the US is very insular in its investment outlook, but contend that investment trusts would be the ideal way for Americans to test the water of foreign markets. They say, rightly, that British trusts have a high degree of international investment expertise and a close relationship with overseas financial institutions which could produce new international financial groupings, attractive to overseas investors.

Two disadvantages under which investment trusts operate are an old-fashioned image and low management charges. Image should not be difficult to change. For many trusts it would mean no more than a change of name to something which had meaning for potential US investors (existing names are confusing and largely

meaningless) and producing more information for shareholders.

The question of higher charges is more difficult to resolve: for years investment trusts have sold themselves on the good value they offer in terms of fees. Laing & Cruckshank would like to see, with specialist trusts, an increase in charges from about 0.3 per cent of assets under management to about one per cent. This extra income would be used to attract highly qualified specialist management and to market investment trusts. The difficulty is to persuade shareholders, who would obviously have to approve the change, that paying more would improve performance.

Certain trusts dealing for example in unquoted investments, need specialist advice and will have to pay for it. Overseas institutions now moving into the City might in any event pluck the best investment trust managers unless they are paid more.

Two developments the stockholders believe must come are investment trust-linked insurance policies, similar to unit-linked schemes, and direct participation in trust management by overseas institutions. Insurance linked schemes are almost certain to materialize in 1984. There are no special problems and the only surprise is that such schemes have taken so long to appear.

There are four other changes Laing & Cruckshank would like to see long term to reduce the discount to net assets. First, lower Stamp Duty, which would increase trading and turnover and increase interest and demand; second, the development of the Index Futures Market to spotlight investment trust shares as an attractive way for investors to hedge their positions; third, further relaxation of share buying-in legislation to allow trusts to buy in their own shares, a privilege already enjoyed by their US brethren; and lastly, the introduction of "portable pensions" to give a substantial boost to the size of pension funds managed by investment trusts.

Third bidder for Eagle Star?

Shareholders confused by the uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the rival bidding for Eagle Star by BAT Industries and Allianz Versicherungs might now give serious thought to the possibility that another bidder will emerge after tomorrow's deadline for bidding set by the Takeover Panel.

The Eagle share price fell by 10p to 707p yesterday as the market took stock of last-ditch discussions between BAT and Allianz aimed at reaching a solution before tomorrow's 4.30pm shoot-out. Yet according to usual reliable sources, there is a real possibility that a mystery third bidder will enter the fray once BAT and Allianz have produced their final bids.

The story is that a new bidder, perhaps American General in the US, although this is not confirmed, is waiting to see just how much it needs to pay to take Eagle Star from the clutches of the other two.

Officially, those involved in the bitterly disputed bid are keeping quiet. However, there have been indications from the Allianz camp that it would prefer to make a deal before the die is cast with each side

placing sealed envelope bids with the Takeover Panel.

Ideally, Allianz would still like to finish up with a 40 per cent stake in Eagle Star to provide a footing in the British insurance market. Attempts to reach an agreement with BAT to achieve this end have been given a cool reception. With the bidding evenly matched at 675p per share and no sign of any agreement, the arrival of a third bidder on the scene would suit Allianz which is sitting on £150m plus profit on its Eagle Star shares.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle, this morning chairs a meeting of shareholders in London to approve technical change in the share structure which could reduce the amount of stamp duty paid after recent heavy dealings in the company's shares. Sir Denis has said that he will not be commenting on the bid at the meeting, which should be completed within a matter of minutes. But he, like the rest of the market, must be wondering just who will be running the Eagle Star empire next week.

Burton pays £3.5m for 93 Harry Fenton stores

By Jonathan Clare

The Burton Group has bought the 93-store Harry Fenton menswear chain, one of its main high street rivals, from Mr Murray Gordon's Combined English Stores.

The deal, which took only three days to complete, means that in a single move Burton will add about 120,000 sq ft to its trading area - equivalent to twice the amount it added in the whole of last year.

Both Burton and the City see the deal as compensation for its failure to buy the John Collier and Richard Shops chains from UDS this year after it was taken over by Lord Hanson's Hanson Trust.

Burton is paying only the £3.5m asset value for the loss making chain, which trades through leasehold shops. Combined English Stores will retain freehold property which has a book value of a further £2.2m. Richard Shops and John Collier, with a total of 450 outlets, would have cost Burton about £100m, but included much freehold property.

Last September Mr Gordon, Combined English Stores' chairman and chief executive, said that the absence of mark-downs and good results from the new



Ralph Halpern (left) and Murray Gordon: quick deal

Studio shops in the chain should mean Harry Fenton was near breakeven in the year ending next month. The likelihood of better results means yesterday's announcement came as a surprise to the market.

The sale of Harry Fenton, which lost £1.7m last year, boosted Combined English Stores' share price by 5p to 46p. Burton's share rose by 6p to 422p.

Mr Gordon said the deal was arranged after a chance encounter

become competitive and its shops would need heavy investment to survive.

He said that £6m would have to be invested over the next two years to increase the number of Studio shops from 10 to about 40. During this period there would be little real profit.

Both Burton and Combined English Stores said they had not discussed a full bid for the whole company. Burton has previously been tipped as a potential bidder.

However, Mr Wood said he was quite happy to see Harry Fenton trading competitively against Burton's other outlets.

The sale of Harry Fenton will transform Combined English Stores' balance sheet and the positive cash flow from the remaining businesses will enable it to start a refurbishment programme.

The retained Harry Fenton properties, which are not occupied by Harry Fenton stores, would be worth £4m after refurbishment, giving Combined English Stores a total of £7.5m from the deal.

Mr Gordon concedes that the sale of Harry Fenton, coupled with the low share price, leaves the group vulnerable to a bid.

London and Liverpool chief quits

By Andrew Cornallins

Mr Jeffrey Bonas, has resigned as chief executive of London and Liverpool Trust, the troubled pub video and photocopying leasing company.

He said yesterday that he had resigned because he was "fed up".

His decision follows the appointment of Mr Asley Whittall as chairman of the company and Hill Samuel as financial advisers.

Mr Bonas said that he had been working under considerable pressure for a year and a half and that he now wanted to do other things.

He said he had every confidence in the future of London and Liverpool where the shares have plummeted from a high of 370p this year to 25p.

Inflation measures 'threaten recovery'

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Recession is the inevitable consequence of policies to reduce inflation, and attempts to squeeze inflation further are likely to prove incompatible with continuing recovery, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development says in a study just published.

The study concludes, contrary to the claims of some monetarist economists, that the impact of disinflationary policies on economic output is both severe and long-lasting, with output taking 5 to 10 years or more to return to long-run trend levels.

These results will make unwelcome reading for Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, whose economic strategy is based on the premise that progress towards price stability can be reconciled with steady growth. But the study, does support the Government's contention that inflation of demand to speed recovery from recession, for the United Kingdom at least, tends to be

dissipated in higher inflation rather than stimulate extra output.

The Paris-based OECD, whose 24 members make up the world's richest nations, studied the effect of changes in nominal national income (or money gdp) on inflation and output in each of the main industrial countries over the past three decades.

For Britain, 80 per cent of any change in nominal national income growth is absorbed by inflation within a year, the study concludes, though for the United States and Germany the compatible figure is 20 per cent or less.

Between 1973 and 1981, British money gdp grew by an average of 15.2 per cent a year, while real output rose by only 1.3 per cent a year, the OECD economists calculate.

Output responsiveness and inflation: an aggregate study by David Coe and Gerald Holtham in OECD Economic Studies, No 1, Autumn, 1983.

Logica in £2.18m US deal

By Derek Pain

Logica, the computer software house, yesterday announced its first takeover deal since it came to the stock market in October.

It is paying £280,000 cash with a further £1.3m spread over until August, 1984, for a California-based fledgling company called Intelligent Technologies International Corporation.

ITIC was started only two years ago. It is not yet making profits but Logica expects it to get into the black "within the next few months".

In the current Logica financial year, to end next June, the US acquisition is expected to produce a small profit contribution. It will provide "an important addition to Logica's profit stream in future years".

Logica shares have been one of the new issue successes of 1983. They were offered at a minimum tender price of 140p. The striking price was 220p and yesterday they closed at 288p - down 2p.

The company sees its ITIC acquisition, with its software for mini-computers, as an important development in its US build-up.

ITIC was started by Mr Victor America and Mr Dan Gregerson, who remained with the company after the British takeover. Three Logica men have joined the ITIC board. The deal was completed just before Christmas.

Stenhouse offer terms extended

Reed Stenhouse, which is bidding £53m for its Glasgow-based parent company, Stenhouse Holdings, yesterday extended its offer terms until January 11 and declared that they are final terms.

At the same time, it bought 1.12 million Stenhouse shares at 132p per share, about 3 per cent of the total equity, giving it effective control of 39.5 per cent of the shares.

Stenhouse Holdings, which held 49 per cent of Reed Stenhouse before the takeover bid, says the offer terms of one Reed Stenhouse share plus 20p cash for every five Stenhouse Holdings shares is inadequate.

It is also setting up a data bank to track the movement of containers worldwide. Thought to be thief-proof when introduced 20 years ago, the containers seals are now being so expertly cracked that stolen loads are only discovered on delivery.

Pennzoil in \$1.6bn offer for Getty stake

New York, (NYT) - The Pennzoil company jumped into the family feud that has shaken the Getty Oil Company on Tuesday night by offering to buy 16 million shares of the West Coast oil producer for \$100 each. The \$1.6 billion acquisition would give Pennzoil a 20 per cent holding in Getty.

Pennzoil is beginning lawsuits in several federal district courts to invalidate certain state takeover laws that may apply to its offer.

A Getty spokesman said the company was "totally surprised" by the offer but declined to comment further until the offer had been reviewed.

Getty is the 14th largest US oil company in assets while Pennzoil ranks 32.

One Wall Street oil analyst said he thought the Getty shares were worth far more than Pennzoil offered - possibly as much as \$140 to \$150 each.

Getty stock rose 15½ to \$96 on Wall Street yesterday. Pennzoil was up ¾ to \$33½.

Pennzoil's chairman, Mr Hugh Liedtke, said "Our objective is to acquire a substantial equity interest in Getty Oil with the view to participating in a constructive way in the formulation and implementation of a restructuring of Getty."

Pennzoil said it is acting independently of other major shareholders in Getty and has not had discussions with the other holders.

Getty and its chairman, Mr Sidney Peterson, have been locked in a battle for control of the company with Mr Gordon Getty, son of J. Paul Getty, the company's founder. Mr Getty, the sole trustee of the Sarah C. Getty Trust, and Mr Harold Williams, the president of the J. Paul Getty Trust and the J. Paul

become competitive and its shops would need heavy investment to survive.

He said that £6m would have to be invested over the next two years to increase the number of Studio shops from 10 to about 40. During this period there would be little real profit.

Both Burton and Combined English Stores said they had not discussed a full bid for the whole company. Burton has previously been tipped as a potential bidder.

However, Mr Wood said he was quite happy to see Harry Fenton trading competitively against Burton's other outlets.

The sale of Harry Fenton will transform Combined English Stores' balance sheet and the positive cash flow from the remaining businesses will enable it to start a refurbishment programme.

The retained Harry Fenton properties, which are not occupied by Harry Fenton stores, would be worth £4m after refurbishment, giving Combined English Stores a total of £7.5m from the deal.

Mr Gordon concedes that the sale of Harry Fenton, coupled with the low share price, leaves the group vulnerable to a bid.

Markets celebrate

As 1983 draws to a close, world stock markets continued to scale new heights. Yesterday, it was the turn of the Frankfurt Bourse which bettered its previous best, set 23 years ago, with a rise of 10.9 on the Commerzbank Index to 1,044. Dealers remain in high spirits and predict that 1984 could see the index hit 1,200.

Frankfurt's record breaking run follows similar performances recently in Sydney, New York and Tokyo. Hong Kong, where the question of sovereignty has upset sentiment, has failed to make much headway.

In London share prices made little headway after the Christmas break, but the FT index managed a rise of 0.6 to 775.6 - just 0.6 short of its record high achieved last week.

Foreign exchange markets were thin and lifeless, with little business now expected until after the New Year holiday. The pound closed in London up 28 points against the dollar at \$1.4356, and showed little change against Continental currencies.

Market report, page 15

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 775.6 up 0.6
FT 100 83.37 up 0.22
FT All Share 470.01
Barrington 16,804 up 0.76
Barrington US Leaders Index 75.93 up 0.14
New York: Dow Jones Average (latest) 1260.26 down 3.46
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,893.82 up 9.88
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 874.15 up 6.85
Amsterdam: 161.0 up 1.6
Sydney: AO Index 765.6 up 3.1
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1044.0 up 10.9
Brussels: 1208.0 down 0.050
Paris: CAC Index 155.5 up 1.3
Zurich: SBA General 316.90

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4356 up 20pts
Index 82.5 unchanged
DM 3.55 unchanged
FF 12.08 down 0.0050
Yen 335 unchanged
Dollar Index 130.1 down 0.2
DM 2.7526 down 0.0039
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4365
Dollar DM 2.7500
INTERNATIONAL
ECU \$0.51702
SDR not available

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 9½%
Finance houses base rate 9½%
Discount market loans week fixed 9½-9
3 month interbank 9½-9½%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9½-10½%
3 month DM 6½-6½%
1 month FF 13½-13½%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00%
Fed funds 9½%
Treasury long bond 10½%
10½%

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
an \$379.10 pm \$378
close \$377.50-\$378.25
(\$263-\$263.50)
New York latest \$379
Sovereigns (new):
\$89.90 (\$82-\$82.75)
Excludes VAT

WALL STREET

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stocks remained lower in moderate early trading yesterday with about 41 million shares traded.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 2½ points while the transportation index fell 2½ points. The utilities index remained off by only a fraction of a point.

Advances continued to trail declines by about seven-to-six.

Mr John Burnett, vice-president of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, said the stock market was once again reacting to the bond market which was slipping.

IBM was down ¾ at 123½ while Texas Instruments was down 1 at 137½.

Getty Oil was up 15½ at 96. Pennzoil started a tender offer for it in the morning. Pennzoil was up ¾ at 33½. Watkins Johnson was up ¾ at 84½. It declared a three-for-one stock split. Honeywell was off 2 at 135½.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barrington	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	10½%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

↑ Mortgage Base Rate

* 7 day deposits on amount of under £10,000, 14 day deposits up to £25,000, 28 day deposits over £25,000 and over 70 days.

NEWS IN BRIEF

6,000 jobs boost for industry

The number of jobs in manufacturing industry rose in October for the first time since the recession began in mid-1979, according to figures published yesterday in the Department of Employment Gazette. The increase of 6,000 was immediately welcomed by Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, as a further encouraging sign of Britain's recovery.

He said that while it was dangerous to put too much emphasis on one month's figures, it fitted into the pattern of declining job losses in manufacturing and the pickup in employment in the service sector.

There was further good news for the Government yesterday. The number of days lost through strikes in 1983 is likely to be below 4 million and the lowest since 1967, with the exception of 1976, according to figures for the first 11 months of the year.

Meanwhile a survey has claimed job prospects in the first three months of 1984 will be more favourable than during any first quarter for four years.

The survey, of 1,260 exporting employers, with more than 3 million workers, was carried out for Manpower Ltd, the temporary services company.

● The West German Flick industrial group must repay DM450m (£113m) granted as a tax concession, government spokesmen said. The economics ministry had nullified the tax rebate because it had been based on incorrect facts.

The tax concession was awarded on the proceeds of the sale of a large Flick stake in the Daimler-Benz group. Most of the funds were reinvested in the US chemicals group W R Grace. A condition for the tax rebate was that the new investment served the national interest.

Battle over Theakston's heads for High Court

By Our Financial Staff

Battle for control of T and R Theakston, the Yorkshire brewery famed for its high strength Old Peculier beer, now seems likely to be decided in the High Court.

The two declared bidders - and there is continuing speculation that others lurk on the sidelines - are Matthew Brown and Co the Blackburn-based brewing group, and William Grant and Sons, the unquoted, family controlled company famed for such whiskies as Standish and Glenfiddich.

One segment of the Theakston family and board backs the Matthew Brown offer which has been increased from 64p a share to 71p. The rest of the family and board is behind the 88p share offer from William Grant.

The High Court involvement

revolves around the validity of acceptances of the Matthew Brown offer.

Theakston's articles of association include the condition that any selling shareholder must first offer the shares to other existing shareholders.

Backing the Matthew Brown bid are the chairman, Mr Paul Theakston, who with his immediate family, accounts for some 11 per cent of the shares, and the London Trust.

But the Theakston London Trust control is challenged by other directors, including the managing director, Mr Gerry Thomas and another member of the Theakston family, Mr Michael Theakston. They have about 35 per cent of the capital and want to accept the higher William Grant offer.

Talbot faces split from parent group

French shadow on Ryton's future

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

Armed riot police stood guard last night outside the strike-torn Talbot plant at Poissy, on the outskirts of Paris, as management, unions and workers planned their next moves in a bitter, long-running dispute.

On Tuesday, a court at Versailles ordered workers to allow "free access" to part of the plant they had been occupying in protest against planned redundancies. That order empowered the board of Peugeot, which controls Talbot - formerly Simca, which was owned by the US Chrysler corporation - to ask police to eject workers.

Instead senior managers were working on a plan to move ownership of Talbot from its current parent, the Peugeot-Citroen group to companies named SA Talbot and Sora SA. That move, which the board

would consider on January 5 could insulate the Peugeot group from troubles at its Talbot subsidiary, thus avoiding the whole company being dragged into bankruptcy.

Peugeot lost F Fr 1.9 billion in 1981 (then about £190m) and F Fr 2.1 billion last year (about £175m). In late November, a group spokesman said the 1983 figures would be "far from breakeven". Most of the losses have been at Talbot.

For that reason, Peugeot to shed 2,902 of the 13,500 jobs at Talbot - Poissy. The unions resisted that move, and after much hesitation the Government intervened recently with a compromise plan for 1,905 lay-off.

The unions refused to accept, and since just before Christmas up to 500 workers have been occupying the plant, bringing production to a halt.

On Tuesday night, cars parked near the plant were set on fire.

Further, the future of British Talbot leans heavily on its Ryton factory's assembling the new Peugeot 205 model rather than making new Talbot vehicles. So a divorce would raise problems. But those are pay when compared with Peugeot's pressing need to stem its financial haemorrhage.

Two months ago, the Peugeot president, M Jean-Paul Parayre, made clear in London his group's determination to invest considerable sums, probably as much as £50m, in the Ryton plant near Coventry although there must now be fears for the security of the 3,000 workers.

Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent, writes: Talbot UK made a first-half profit of £1.5m this year against a £40.6m loss a year earlier.

Chrysler, which took over from the Rootes Group.

Furthermore, the future of British Talbot leans heavily on its Ryton factory's assembling the new Peugeot 205 model rather than making new Talbot vehicles. So a divorce would raise problems. But those are pay when compared with Peugeot's pressing need to stem its financial haemorrhage.

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Investors take a break

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Today. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 3.

It has been a bumper year in the equity market, so investors decided to rest on their laurels yesterday and enjoy the extended Christmas and New Year break.

The FT Index closed 0.6 up at 775.6 - just 0.6 short of the record high, achieved last week - and around 30 per cent up on the closing index of 598.9 set on January 4, this year.

Much of the improved sentiment stemmed from Wall Street's overnight 13-point improvement, although turnover was pitifully low with stock shortages responsible for many of the price rises.

Leading shares again attracted what interest remained with US enthusiasm responsible for a 10p lead in BTR at 429p, while Distillers added 2p to 238p on Saturday's article in *The Times* suggesting that a mystery buyer had picked up about 4 per cent of the shares.

On the oil spot market in Rotterdam prices rose 50 cents above the official Opec levels

giving some long awaited support for oil shares. BP stood out with 6p rise to 401p, while British added 2p to 195p. Clyde the pound making further improvements against the dollar on the foreign exchange where it closed 55 points up at \$1.4350. In long the rises extended to 50p by the close, but at the shorter end dealers reported nervous selling after hours resulting falls of up to £1/16.

Over on the Unlisted Securities Market shares of Federated Housing were unchanged at 50p after reaching agreement with the Crouch Group to develop the bulk of the residential development interests owned by Crouch.

The 16-month agreement is worth £4.6m to Crouch, which will receive to cash in instalments with the balance due in 1985. The deal is expected to greatly boost Federated's present operation. In return the Meyer family, which control Federated has agreed to sell Crouch 1.8 million shares in the

company amounting to 20 per cent. This reduces the Meyer stake from 55 per cent to 43.8 per cent.

The board of Electronic Machine Rentals is worried by the recent surge in the share price. Yesterday it issued a statement stating it knows of no reason for the rise. The shares added 6p to 78p.

Hales Properties, the Birmingham-based property development dealing company, is in takeover talks. The group's

share price leapt 20 per cent to 100p after it announced it was in talks with a mystery suitor. At this level the group is valued at £2.8m. The Wesleyan & General Assurance has a 25 per cent stake.

Refuge Assurance has increased its stake in Leopold Joseph, the exclusive merchant bank which is 26 per cent owned by two German banks, from 8.75 per cent to 10.65 per cent.

A spokesman for Refuge said there was no particular significance in the increased shareholding. "We think that merchant banks, generally, are a good investment at present, given the changes that are going on in the City. Leopold Joseph has been left behind in the recent run up of the sector", he said.

Shares of Leopold Joseph closed unchanged at 308p.

Epicure Holdings, headed by Mr Reg Brealey, chairman of Sheffield United Football Club, has increased its stake in the London Pavilion by picking up 3,600 shares amounting to 6.6 per cent of the equity. Epicure closed steady at 36p.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

BRITISH FUNDS

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

DOLLAR STOCKS

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

RANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

A - B

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

STERLING: SPOT AND FORWARD

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

MONEY MARKET

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

OTHER MARKETS

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

EURO-DEPOSITS

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

GOLD

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

SHIPPING

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

MINES

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

PROPERTY

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

PLANTATIONS

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

MISCELLANEOUS

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Company	Price	Change
Amoco (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0
BP (11/2)	140	0
Shell (11/2)	140	0
British (11/2)	140	0

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WANTED

HOUSE CONTENTS: antiques, large scale, old desks, pictures, C&G books, vhs etc. Frimley, 01-457 7871.

WANTED: Antique sign woodwork, 19th century, 18" x 10". Orrell, Tel: 04546 3800.

GEMSTONE: Jewellers and leopard skin goods required. Phone agents 01-229 9016.

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SW14, 876 2883
287 Haverstock Hill, NW3
794 0139

CHOICE

Swain
Macnamara (piano), Glec
Wynne (percussion), BBC
Singers and members of
London Percussion
11.00 The Complete Webern: Four
Pieces, Op. 7, for violin and
cello; Five Movements for string
quartet, 1905, with Nora Liddell,
Joan Barton (violins), Donald
McVie (cello) and Clive
van Kampen (cello), With John
Constable (piano)
11.15 News, Umt 11.18

Radio 2

News on the hour (except 8.00 and
9.00am). Major bulletins 7.00, 8.00am,
1.00, 5.00pm and 12.00 midnight.
Headlines 7.00, 8.00am and 3.00pm
(MF/MF). 5.00am Ray Moore. 7.30
Terry Wogan, 11.00 Jimmy Young,
11.00pm Mike Warrack with
Jackie Laurence Till 12.30 John

CHANNEL 4

Desk. 6:00 John Dunn, 6:45 Sport and classified reports (M-F only), 7:30 Marching and Wrestling, 8:30 Country Club and the Wally Whirly, 9:30 Star Sound Extra with Nick Jackson. Guests include John Ciesse, Peter Cushing, Dustin Hoffman, Vincent Price and Anthony Perkins, 9:57 Sports Desk. 10:00 The Huddellins' Brief of the Year, 10:30 Brian Matthew presents Round Midnight (stereo from midnight), 1:00am Grand Gala, 12:00-5:00 Peter and the Music, You and the Night and the Music. †

Radio 1

News on the half-hour from 6:30am until 9:30pm and then 12:00 midnight (M-F/DAV), 6:30a Amanda Adams with the Early Show, 7:00 Mike Read, 8:00 Simon Bates, 11:30 Mike Smith, and 12:30 News Desk, 2:00pm Steve Wright, 4:30 Peter Powell, and 5:30 Newsbeat, 7:20 David Jensen, 11:00-12:00 John Peel's (exclusive, 50, Listeners' top 50 and 100), 12:00-1:00am John Peel and 2:50-5:00am With Radio 2, 10:00pm With Radio 1, 12:00-5:00am With Radio 2.

Brian Matthews presents

[illegible]

ULSTER As London except:
9.25am-9.30 Day Ahead.
9.30am-1.30 Lunchtime, 5.15-5.45
Whose Baby? 6.00 Good Evening
Lieder. 6.25 Cancon, 6.35-7.00
Crocodroids. 11.45 News, Closesdown.

GRANADA As London except:
12.30pm-1.00 Peter
and the Wolf, 1.30-2.30
Fleppies. 5.15-5.45 Purple Hillybites!
6.00 Crocodroids. 8.25 News, 8.30-9.00
Every McGinn Show. 11.45 Ripley 93.
12.30am Closesdown.

TYNNE TEES As London except:
1.20pm-7.50 News
and Lookround. 8.15-5.45 Carry on
Laughing. 6.00 News. 6.02 Crocodroids.
6.25-7.00 Northern Lieder. 11.45 Music
Special. 12.30am Christian Christmas,
Closesdown.

ANGLIA As London except:
10.25am Happy Days.
10.50 Bolshoi School of Ballet. 11.50-
12.15 Crocodroids. 1.25-2.00
Whose Baby? 6.00 About
Anglia. 6.35-7.00 Crocodroids. 11.45
Ladies Man. 12.15am It's in the Cards,
Closesdown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
1 Star, excellent and with. 0 Repeat.

ULSTER As London except
9.25am-9.30 Day Ahead.

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1983 SWET Awards
"Absolutely Marvellous" -BBC
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THE MUSICAL
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Grp Sales 01-930.6123
Even 8.00 Fri & Sat 6.00 & 8.30
Special New Year's Eve party 2.50 &
6.00
Bank Hol Monday, 2 Jan. 6 & 8.30pm
"BEST MUSICAL" The Observer

EXHIBITIONS

TREASURED POSSESSIONS

THEATRE: POSSESSIONS. A Loan Exhibition of Works of Art at Sotheby's in conjunction with The Historic Houses Association, 21st December 1985 to 20th January 1984, Monday-Saturday 10.30 am to 5.30 pm, Sunday, & holidays 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm. Closed 24, 25, 26th December. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond St, London W1A 2AA. Tel: 01 493 8080.

Adm £3 U2 after 4.00 Tues-Fri. Ari
Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2, 638
4141.

"PRINCE ALBERT his life and
work - Royal College of Art, Daily
10-6.30, Wednesday 10-8

ART GALLERIES

SEYMOUR GREEN MUSEUM of
Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road,
E.2. **SPRIT OF CHRISTMAS**, Adm-
free. Wkdays. 10-6. Suns. 2.30-6.
Closed Fridays. Recorded Info. 01
581 4894. Closed 1 Jan.

BRITISH LIBRARY, Gt. Russell St.
WC1. **THE ENGLISH PROVINCIAL
PRINTER 1700-1800**. Until 29 Jan.
THE MIRROR OF THE WORLD
antique map. Until 31 Dec.

Weddays 10-5, Sun. 2.30-6. Adm free. Closed 1 January

BRITISH MUSEUM. Drawings by **RAPHAEL** from **ENGLISH COLLECTIONS**. Until 15 Jan. Adm £1. Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun. 2.30-6. Recorded info 01-580 1788. Closed 1 Jan.

CHRISTOPHER HULL GALLERY. 670 Fuzham Rd, SW6. 01 736 4120. **Michael Ayrton & Contemporary**

MARLBOROUGH GRAPHICS GALLERY Inaugural Exhibition of 19th & 20th Century Master Prints, including works by Munch, Nolde, Picasso, Pissarro, Klee and Moseley. Daily 10-5.30 Sat. 10-12.30. 99 Old Bond St. W1. Tel 01 629 5161

ODETTE GILBERT GALLERY, 5 Cork St. W1. 01 437 3175 The New

ROYAL ACADEMY, Burlington House, Piccadilly. Open 10-6 daily
THE GENIUS OF VENICE 1500-1600 until 11 March. Adm. £3.50. Surs. until 145 and concessionary rate £2.

TATE GALLERY, Millbank, SW1

JOHN PIPER paintings, stained glass, ceramics, fabrics, theatre designs. **Unit 22 Jan. Adm \$1.50. Sculpture and drawings by REG BUTLER, 1913-81. Unit 18 Jan. RICHARD HAMILTON: Graphic Work. Unit 12 Feb. Adm free. Wkdays 10-5.30, Surs 2-5.30. Recorded Info 01-821 7128. Closed 1 Jan.**

VICTORIAN & RESCUE MUSEUM, S.
Kensington. **BRITISH 20TH CENTURY ART & DESIGN** new display
RICHARD DOYLE: A Christmas Exhibition. Until 26 Feb. **DAVID COX: Oil Paintings & Watercolours.** Until 8 Jan. **OLIVER WESSEL** Until 18 Jan. **MARKETA LUSKACOVA: Photographs.** Until 26 Feb. **ISLAMIC BOOKBINDINGS.** Until 4 March. Adm. free. **Whidys 10-5.50. Sun 2.30-5.00.** Closed Feb 24.

Info: 01-561 4894. Closed 1 Jan.

Policeman's widow speaks of dangers

Continued from page 1

forced down a basement and we had to stay there for two hours. But of the Harrods bombers, she said: "I do not think I could forgive them. I'd feel very little about them."

Mr Dodd, who was 6ft 5ins tall, had "totally and utterly" lived up to his nickname of "gentle giant", she said. "He was a dedicated policeman."

While her husband was one of the force's tallest policemen, Mrs Dodd was one of the smallest, but she was given the task of training him on beat duties in the King's Cross area of London.

"I am sure they did it for a joke, we looked so ridiculous. But we fell in love on the beat, and he proposed to me on the beat."

After they married, her husband went on to become, aged 23, one of the youngest sergeants, and was commended for bravery after tackling a gunman during a routine call to a domestic row.

Being a former police officer helped her to understand the real nature of the job her husband was doing. "I married him knowing he was doing a dangerous job - though it was getting more dangerous as the years went on."

"He discussed with me when there was a possibility of a bombing campaign, exactly what he would do."

He said he did not care if he was made to look an idiot. If there was ever a suspect package he would clear the streets and make sure there were no civilians that could be injured.

The couple had drifted apart when Mr Dodd was preparing for his inspectors' examinations, and she was studying for a Bachelor of Humanities degree in business studies and history at Roehampton, Surrey.

"Steve and I had been separated for a year, but we were still very good friends", she said. "There wasn't a day when I hadn't spoken to him. We would have spent Christmas together. It was always there that there could be a reconciliation."

She explained to the children at the start that their father had been involved in the Harrods bomb blast and that he had been injured.

Mrs Dodd stayed with her husband at the hospital as doctors fought to save his life, and he died with his wife at his side.

West End quiet as shoppers flock to suburbs



Sales security: Regent Street (left), police in Oxford Street (top) and a bag check at Debenhams. (Photographs: Suresh Karadia)

By Robin Young

The West End was quiet yesterday, compared with the packed shopping centres at Croydon, Romford and Brent Cross.

At Brent Cross, north London, the car parks were full before the shops opened. Alders of Bromley reported 898 people in the queue before opening time - more than almost any at the big West End stores.

There is no doubt that fear of IRA bombs in the West End has benefited suburban stores.

Mr Peter Harrison, an Alders director, said that the Bromley store's takings had been 41 per cent up on last year in the week before Christmas.

"Our stores in Sutton, Croydon, Camberley, Eltham and Chatham, and Arding and Hobbs in Clapham, are all reporting very brisk business and record sales. We expect overall that our first day of sale trade is going to be at least a quarter more than last year."

However, the Army and Navy group, which reported a good first day's trading for Barker's of Kensington on Tuesday when public transport difficulties were blamed for keeping many shoppers away.

"We expect trade to level with last year over the full week," a spokesman said.

At Liberty in Regent Street, it was told: "Do not judge a sale by the numbers of people. Well-to-do crowds can actually hamper trade."

Liberty announced yesterday that it would hold a special "half of sale price sale" on January 2. "To say 'thank you' to loyal customers who have supported us so well."

Competitors said that this move smacked of desperation, but Liberty said: "We are doing extremely well."

Trading at several stores was disrupted by bomb warnings and suspiciously parked cars. However, the police dealt with more than 50 false alarms yesterday.

The 700 extra officers drafted into London will remain on duty until the winter sales are over, the police said. They praised the public for its

cooperation in not driving to central London and extra vigilance.

The Automobile Association reported that motorists caused problems in many other congested city centres by parking illegally when car parks were filled. Congestion was worst in Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle.

Mr Philip Isley, from Windsor, established a record for sale queuing by camping for 15 days outside Selfridges, which was damaged by a bomb on Christmas Day. He ended his vigil, in aid of the Sue Ryder Foundation, by buying a ball-point pen reduced from £2.25 to £1.50.

Letter from New York

A city devoted to its stomach

In front of me is a magazine photograph, showing a determined security policeman in a baseball cap holding a rifle. He is in a New York meat market guarding pig carcasses. It is, in its way, an American metaphor: abundance, red meat, macho pose and gun. But it is also absurd: here is a man apparently prepared to kill, or lay down his life for dead pigs.

Men who guard meat with rifles and sub-machine guns are cogs in the machinery of supply in the eating capital of the world, a city devoted to its stomach.

They are the protectors of commodities of considerable value, but ones that are by no means in short supply. New Yorkers consume 250,000 tons of beef alone every year, and they spend £7 billion a year on food, a good part of it in restaurants. Indeed, you have not seen abundance until you have seen New York, its countless restaurants, delicatessens and 24-hour food shops, the amazing quantity and variety of food offered.

Of all cities New York is unexcelled in the extent and diversity of eating houses. In a country where there are more restaurants per hundred mouths than anywhere in the world, New York is the champion. A young man setting out to eat in a different Manhattan restaurant every night could not dine in them all in his lifetime, and, for his pains, he would be overcharged in many and meet bossy waiters in more than a few.

Restaurant-going for New Yorkers is more than a matter of nourishment, social intercourse and entertainment. It is part of the dynamics and drama of the lives of a self-absorbed and suggestive tribe. It is part of the way in which people with high disposable income, living in small apartments, determinedly enjoy a New York lifestyle and express themselves.

They ache to be favoured by imperious *maitres* of fashionable restaurants and queue like Muscovites in search of toilet paper to enter crowded popular places. They roam like herds to graze, and be seen grazing, in new pastures. They read robust reviews and learn, for example, that one restaurant's steaks "would not be touched by a starving mongrel".

Dedicated diners subscribe to a small magazine which signposts trends, spotlights

good cooking and tells you where you can dine for £100 for two and get awful food. It reveals where film stars eat, so that you can eat and stare, and which restaurant divides clients into "divine people and peasants". It makes a virtue of its small circulation, pointing out that if *The New York Times* recommends a place you may be trampled as the herd rushes over to it.

New York eaters are coming to terms with the retirement from active nosebagging of the great Mimi Sheraton, doyenne restaurant critic of *The New York Times*. After more than seven years reviewing three or four restaurant lunches a week, as well as dinners, she has had to leave the journalism she loved, and her magnificent expense account, felled at last by obesity.

She worked incognito, but she was that nice, plump lady enjoying her food and getting plumper. "I had a hard time leaving anything on my plate," she confessed in a recent recollection of her dining years. Three years ago she found she weighed 14 stone, and took five months off to diet. Back to 14 stone again, she has hung up her knife and fork.

New York restaurants and homes are fed by a complex vitualising network, the equivalent of Smithfield, Billingsgate and Covent Garden. But food shopping here is unlike that of most parts of the United States. There are few huge supermarkets because there is little space for them; and New Yorkers are not in the habit of doing a week's shopping at one time.

There are many fingers in such a rich pie. Gangsters control much of the fish market and their cut is reflected in higher prices. Dairies, which for years conspired to fix milk prices, have agreed to pay a £350,000 fine and refund £4m to consumers.

Between the Mafia, the waiters who expect big tips and the high cost of supplying and serving food, New York can be expensive to eat in.

Recently, in my local 24-hour greengrocery, a woman was complaining to the manager about prices. "It's outrageous," she cried.

"It's New York," he said, as the till bell pinged.

Trevor Fishlock

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

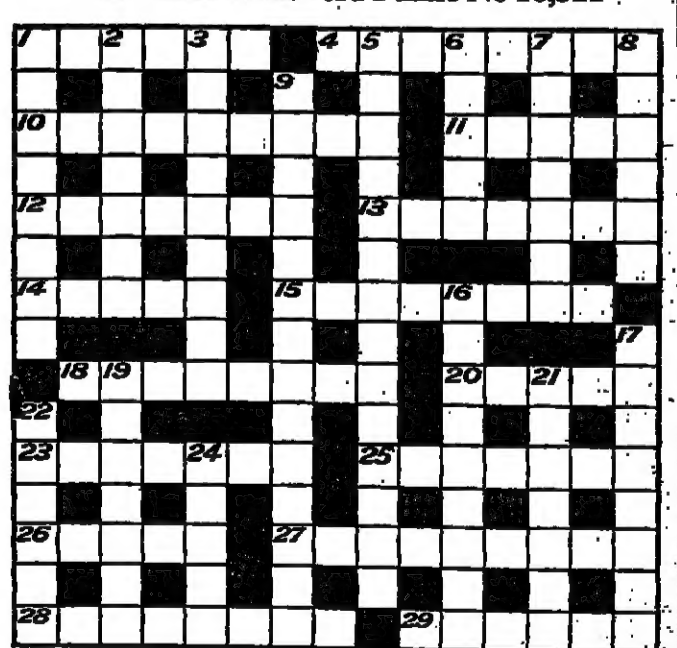
Last chance to see
Max Ernst's exhibition *Histoire Naturelle*, Macaulay Art Gallery, Roselle Park, Arncliffe, Monday to Saturday, 11 to 5 (ends today).
The Colman Collection of Silver Musard Pot, Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge Street, Bath, Monday to Friday, 10 to 6, Saturday, 10 to 3 (ends Saturday).
Fishing Smacks, a Kent County Museum Service travelling exhibition, Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Tunbridge Wells, Monday to Friday, 10 to 5.30.

Saturday, 9.30 to 5 (ends Saturday).
Sculpture's Dance, Southampton Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Southampton: Tuesday to Friday, 10 to 5, Saturday, 10 to 4 (ends Saturday).
Exhibitions in progress
The Artist at War: an exhibition to coincide with the publication of the Imperial War Museum/Tate Gallery of the War Artists, Glasgow Museum & Art Gallery, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, Monday to Saturday, 10 to 5 (ends Jan 5).
Textile Design and Drawings by Janet Hunter, Alderson Gallery, Lord Street, Southampton: Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Thurs and Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun (ends Jan 14).

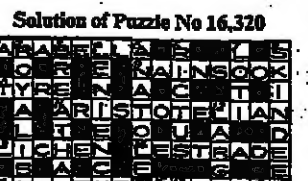
Image - last of a series of three exhibitions sponsored by the Arts Council, Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield: Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 29).
Master Pieces furniture from paintings and drawings: painting and sculpture by Leonard McCoub, Museum of Modern Art, 30, Pembroke Street, Oxford: Tues to Sat, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 15).
Paintings by David Wiseman: City Museum and Art Gallery, Friar Gate, Peterborough: Tues to Sat 12 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (ends Jan 7).

Historical books
The Literary Editor's selection of historical books published during the year: *A History of the Modern World, from 1917 to the 1980s*, by Paul Johnson (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.50).
Albert Prince Consort, by Robert Rhodes James (Hamish Hamilton, £12.50).
A Social History of England, by Asa Briggs, (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £11.95).
Eliot, by Nicholas Gage (Collins, £9.95).
Frederic Horatio Winston Churchill 1894-1941, by Martin Gilbert (Hamish Hamilton, £15.95).
Marcel Proust, Selected Letters 1890-1903 (Collins, £15.95).
Peter Hall's Diaries, edited by John Goodwin (Hamish Hamilton, £12.95).
The Causes of War, by Michael Howard (Temple Smith, £10).
The Diary of Hugh Gough, 1845-1858, edited by Philip M. Williams (Cape, £25).
The Wheels of Commerce, by Fernand Braudel, translated by S. Reynolds (Collins, £17.50).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,321



- ACROSS**
- 1 Disinclined to confirm the directions (6).
 - 2 Ruby port in Holland (8).
 - 3 Area where there should be no signs of inflammation (9).
 - 4 As they used for conducting principal violinists? (7-7).
 - 5 African dromedary carrying Ethiopian woman (9).
 - 6 Tangle with bared teeth (5).
 - 7 Exponents of power (7).
 - 8 Cavel Grey motor cycle (6).
 - 9 Exhibiting a likeness for a kind of government (14).
 - 10 Subject to the outside measurement (5).
 - 11 This beats tossing penny to decide which way to go (8).
 - 12 Dog going around in a pram (8).
 - 13 Sliced melon fruit (5).
 - 14 Spiced onion (7).
 - 15 "Then - the action of the tiger" (H.V.) (7).
 - 16 Venus de Milo's dream, perhaps, to be this (5).
 - 17 Girl escapes from heartburn by the taking of nourishment (9).
 - 18 The heavy element make nuclear gun test (8).
 - 19 Charles's sea-dog (6).
- DOWN**
- 1 Tom falls off the raft on the unending flower (8).
 - 2 Most of the men have gone by this stage of the march (3-4).
 - 3 Area where there should be no signs of inflammation (9).
 - 4 As they used for conducting principal violinists? (7-7).
 - 5 African dromedary carrying Ethiopian woman (9).
 - 6 Tangle with bared teeth (5).
 - 7 Exponents of power (7).
 - 8 Cavel Grey motor cycle (6).
 - 9 Exhibiting a likeness for a kind of government (14).
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 - 18 The heavy element make nuclear gun test (8).
 - 19 Charles's sea-dog (6).



CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

Old Father Time

Inquirers for details of beacons, fireworks displays and torchlight processions organized for their areas to welcome the New Year, under the *English Tourist Board's* "Old Father Time" project, are now being referred to: 061 833-9524.

Sales guide

London and provincial sales. Starting dates include:
Today: Sanderson, Berners Street; John Lewis, Oxford Street; and Brompton, Alderson Gallery.
Tomorrow: Peter Jones, Sloane Square; C & A Stores (all branches); Jones Bros; Pratts of Streatham.

Preventing handicap

A new booklet produced by the Spastics Society, *Healthy Mother, Healthy Baby*, is aimed at creating greater public awareness in preventing handicap at birth. It covers such dangers as smoking, alcohol and rubella (German measles), and apart from marriage hints, there is information on benefits, tests in pregnancy, medicines and drugs, birthnotes and birth before pregnancy. Further details from most Information Department, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. (Tel: 01-636 5020).

New look stars

Rail express services will offer a simplified tariff for Red Star and Night Star parcels from January 1 when distance charges are abolished.

From the new year, Red Star and Night Star parcels will be conveyed anywhere in the UK mainland for one price, subject to weight.

Charges for the one stop London service, which allows packages to be sent from the London terminal most convenient for the customer, and for cross-town and Isle of Wight transfers will be abolished.

For Night Star consignments, there will be no extra charge for morning and Saturday deliveries, and the money-back guarantee for delays to Night Star deliveries will continue.

For example, a 5kg package sent Red Star will cost £5.50 plus value-added tax (VAT). A 20kg package will cost £8.65 plus VAT.

Full details of tariffs are available from any of Red Star's 600 offices.

Anniversaries

Birthday: Andrew Johnson, 17th president of the USA, 1865-69, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1808; William Ewart Gladstone, Prime Minister, 1868-74, 1880-85, 1886, 1892-94, Liverpool, 1809; Pablo Casals, Violinist, Spanish, 1876. Death: Christina Rossetti, poet, London, 1894; Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, Valmoult, Switzerland, 1926. Today is the Feast of Saint Thomas of Canterbury. Thomas Becket was born in London in 1118 and became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162, but his belief in the rights and duties of the Church led to a break in his relations with Henry, and in 1163 he was forced to flee to France. A reconciliation was effected in 1170, only to last a few months. His excommunication of some bishops enraged the king to the extent of crying "who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" Four barons did so, killing Becket in his own cathedral.

The papers

Commenting on South Africa's latest invasion of Angola, the *Harvard Herald*, the state-controlled Zimbabwe daily, says there are parallels with Israel's invasion and annexation of Arab lands, commenting: "The realization that the world will react with the same resignation to South African expeditions of destruction and murder is a source of fear for Southern Africans. By stressing that South Africa's latest action is aimed at preempting a massive Swapo guerrilla activity, they (the South Africans) are in fact saying they are protecting their interests, and therefore invoking the same argument the super powers have used in invading smaller Third World countries."

The *New York Times* says that if Third World societies are to attain decent living standards they need fair access to world markets. Their lower labour costs, and the advantage of starting with the most modern technology, makes such developed nations offer subsidies to Third World buyers of steelmaking equipment. And that is why the American Under-Secretary of Commerce, Lionel O'Brien, was right to protest a proposal to offer cheap export-import bank credits for a complex that would increase South Korea's steel output by a third.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.67	1.57
Austria Sch	29.00	27.40
Belgium Fr	84.25	80.25
Canada \$	1.84	1.72
Denmark Kr	14.82	14.11
France Fr	12.40	11.90
Germany DM	4.08	3.99
Greece Dr	164.00	152.00
Hong Kong \$	11.40	10.80
Ireland Pt	1.31	1.26
Italy Lira	2485.00	2365.00
Japan Yen	350.00	332.00
Netherlands Gld	4.60	4.30
Norway Kr	11.58	10.98
Portugal Esc	198.00	187.00
South Africa Rd	1.82	1.69

Basic for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 341.9. London: The FT Index closed 0.6 up at 773.6.

Roads

Although most major roadworks are suspended over the Christmas holiday period the AA issues a reminder that delays may be encountered at the following locations:

London and South-east: A5: British Telecom work along central reservation near the junction with Chichele Road, Cricklewood Broadway; delays likely. A12: Lane closures on London bound carriageway at junctions A12/A13 Single lane between Stanford-le-Hope and junction with A128, Orsett, Essex; congestion at peak periods.

Midlands: A10: Traffic signals at 'Leicestershire' West Street, Bodmin; Bristol, M5: Lane closures between junction 8 and 9 north and southbound; carriageway. A38: Single lane traffic along Saltash-Liskeard/Liskeard Menheniot bypass.

North: A66: Roadworks and lights on North Bitts to Greta Bridge, on Durham road; traffic lights. A1: Two-way traffic on one carriageway between Fairburn and Mickfield, West Yorkshire. A6116: Roadworks alongside existing carriageway, Leeds Southern ring road; delays.

North: A66: Roadworks alongside existing carriageway, Leeds Southern ring road; delays.

North: A66: Roadworks alongside existing carriageway, Leeds Southern ring road; delays.

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Weather forecast

A vigorous trough will move from the Atlantic across Northern areas. A mild, westerly flow will persist in S.

6 am to midnight

London, E Anglia, W Midlands, E England: Cloudy, some rain or drizzle, becoming drier, brighter, wind SW, light or moderate; max temp 10C (50F). SE, central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S, N Wales: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain or drizzle in places; wind SW, moderate or fresh evening westerly. Light, max temp 12C (54F).

NW England, central N, England: Cloudy, some rain or drizzle, becoming drier, brighter for a time, wind SW, moderate; max temp 10C (50F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, some showers, any fog dispersing, more persistent rain, heavy in places from W later, wind W, light increasing fresh or strong; max temp 8C (46F), some frost at first.

Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray, Fife, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, showery, windy on hills, increasing strong perhaps late in expected places later; max temp 6C (43F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Cloud and rain in W will move S followed by colder, brighter, showery weather but becoming milder with rain in N later.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E) Wind SW moderate; sea slight. S, Georges Bank, Celtic Sea, Irish Sea, W of S, SW, moderate or fresh, sea moderate.

Sun rises: 8.06 am
Moon rises: 8.55 pm
New Moon: January 2

Lighting-up time

London: 4.29 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol: 4.38 pm to 7.46 am
Edinburgh: 4.16 pm to 6.14 am
Manchester: 4.35 pm to 7.35 am
Penzance: 4.57 pm to 7.51 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F	C	F
Belfast	10	50	Cloudy	10
Birmingham	10	50	Cloudy	10
Bristol	10	50	Cloudy	10
Cardiff	10	50	Cloudy	10
Edinburgh	10	50	Cloudy	10
Glasgow	10	50	Cloudy	10
London	10	50	Cloudy	10
Manchester	10	50	Cloudy	10
Newcastle	10	50	Cloudy	10
Nottingham	10	50	Cloudy	10
Sheffield	10	50	Cloudy	10
Southampton	10	50	Cloudy	10
Stoke-on-Trent	10	50	Cloudy	10
Swansea	10	50	Cloudy	10
Torquay	10	50	Cloudy	10
Wolverhampton	10	50	Cloudy	10

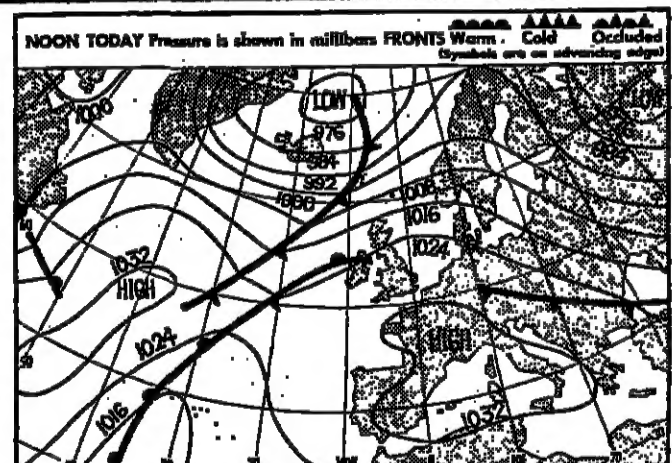
Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Tynemouth 14C (57F). Lowest day temp: West of Wexford 5C (41F). Highest night temp: Tynemouth 5C (41F). Lowest night temp: West of Wexford 1C (34F).

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 8 pm, 12C (54F). min 9 pm to 5 am, 1C (34F). Humidity: 8 pm, 78 per cent. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.2 hr. Sea, mean sea level: 5 pm, 102.9 m (339 ft). Wind: 1,000 m (3,280 ft).

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High tides			
	AM	HT	PM
London Bridge	8.12	8.32	8.5
Aberdeen	8.12	8.32	8.5
Amsterdam	2.24	10.1	10.4
Belfast	7.17	7.17	7.17
Cardiff	2.24	10.1	10.4
Dunfermline	1.17	4.7	5.7
Edinburgh	6.39	6.39	6.39
Falmouth	12.47	4.5	1.3
Glasgow	7.17	7.17	7.17
Harwich	8.12	8.32	8.5
Highland	8.12	8.32	8.5
London	8.12	8.32	8.5
Leith	10.36	10.36	10.36
Liverpool	8.12	8.32	8.5
Manchester	8.12	8.32	8.5